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ALFONSIN DISCUSSES GROUP SIX MEETING IN INDIA

PY221428 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1955 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 21 Jan (NA) -- President Raul Alfonsin today said that he was "satisfied" with the achievements of his administration and predicted that this year "will be easier and better organized than 1984," shortly before starting what he described as "an ethical tour" [as received] of India, Kenya, and Greece.

In a brief statement to the press at Ezeiza Airport, Alfonsin said the government had obtained "as much as possible" in the renegotiation of the foreign debt.

During his 8-day tour, Alfonsin will be meeting with the other rulers of the member countries of the Group Six, India, Greece, Tanzania, Sweden, Mexico, and Argentina, which last May urged the world powers to undertake nuclear disarmament.

Alfonsin's entourage is made up of the following officials: Ricardo Campero, secretary for foreign trade; Raul Prebisch, presidential adviser; Jorge Sabato, foreign relations secretary for special affairs; Jose Ignacio Lopez, presidential spokesman; Eduardo Alvarez Guerrero, governor of Rio Negro Province; Felipe Sapag, governor of Neuquen Province; Roberto Romero, governor of Salta Province; and Antonio Berhongaray, a senator for the Radical Civic Union.

Alfonsin denied that Argentina might be seeking the leadership of the nonaligned group since "it is quite clear that India is entitled to the chairmanship this year." "We, Argentines, are not seeking positions of leadership," Alfonsin categorically said.

Alfonsin described his tour as "an ethical mission," stating that despite not being major powers, the countries that make up the Group Six "are playing an essential role to prevent the risk of a disaster which we all know can take place in the world." In this respect, he said that "the veto power has sometimes prevented final decisions on many issues" and is the major stumbling block to proposals of the group at the United Nations. "This," he said, "has to do with procedural rules of the UN General Assembly and the Security Council which we do not intend to amend substantially, at least for the time being."

Alfonsin admitted that during his meeting with President Reagan in March he might speak for the Group Six, "since we will certainly discuss those issues."

Asked if he will bring up the Malvinas issue at the New Delhi meeting, Alfonsin said that "this is not a subject for discussion within the Group Six but it is an issue that can always be raised by the Argentine president."

Regarding Argentine-Brazilian relations, Alfonsin noted that "a policy of competition prevailed in the past," but he expressed his hope that in the future "we may grow and march together toward development."

CAPUTO ON OBJECTIVES OF NEW DELHI MEETING

PY221505 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] In a statement he made at the airport, Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo discussed aspects of President Alfonsin's trip and Argentine foreign policy issues in general.

[Begin recording] [Caputo] The president's trip to India has several aspects: There is a bilateral aspect which I believe is very important. Let me explain. In addition to the scheduled meeting with the five heads of state, Argentina and India have great bilateral possibilities at the political and commercial levels in the next few years.

I would like to note that Argentine-Indian commercial relations notably improved in 1984. During that period, Argentine exports to India totaled $200 million, whereas in 1983 Argentine exports to India totaled $30 million. This will merely act as the thrust for Indian-Argentine commercial relations, which we believe will continue to increase in 1985 and in the years to come. Moreover, there are very specific areas in which bilateral trade may be increased. Of course, I am not saying that this trip to India will exclusively deal with bilateral trade, but I want to stress the importance of this area, which perhaps has not been granted the importance it deserves.

There is an obvious political aspect to this trip since India is the leader of the nonaligned group and we share similar points of view on substantial issues with India and with other members of the Nonaligned Movement. Let me say that there are two views regarding the Nonaligned Movement, one which tried to bring the East-West confrontation into the nonaligned group through the discussion of certain political positions which involved some countries in the East-West confrontation. In a way, it was an extension of the confrontation between the United States and the USSR, but within the framework of the nonaligned group.

We have discussed this issue and we have agreed that we are opposed to this philosophy. We believe that the Nonaligned Movement should again be what it was at its beginning, that is, a movement that, seeks to avoid involvement in the conflict between the superpowers which is an obstacle to the development of our countries. This is the basic philosophy of the movement, a philosophy that must be reinstated, and fortunately it is a philosophy that India has always upheld. Therefore, Argentina and India share the same point of view regarding this important issue.

The third aspect of this presidential tour to India and Greece is the meeting with the five heads of state to discuss the disarmament issue. Let me explain this further. A nuclear holocaust will affect all the countries in the world, developed and underdeveloped countries, democratic and undemocratic countries, good or bad countries. The entire human race is threatened by a nuclear holocaust. However, the majority of these countries have no decisionmaking capacity; they lack the capacity to impede the arms race and a nuclear holocaust. Why? The answer is obvious: Because we have no economic or military capacity to exert pressure to end the arms race. Therefore, the challenge we are confronting is how these countries that will be affected by a nuclear holocaust can help to prevent an arms race that may eventually lead to a nuclear holocaust. Therefore, the issue in question is to think of ways to undertake political actions that will have an impact despite our shortcomings, the difficulties we are confronting, and our weakness.

[Reporter] Sir, you said that the nonaligned countries lack the necessary power to exert pressure. How can they achieve this necessary power to exert pressure on the superpowers regarding detente?

[Caputo] I did not say that the nonaligned group lacked power. I said that the majority of countries that are not included in the two great strategic blocs, that is NATO and the Warsaw Pact, lack the necessary capacity to exert this pressure. There are countries that are neither members of the nonaligned group nor members of these two military groups. What will be discussed at the meeting of the six heads of state are precisely pragmatic ways that will allow these countries to exert real pressure to end the arms race.

It is not enough to be dramatic, to say look what will happen if there is a nuclear holocaust. I believe that we have had enough of this with speeches delivered at international forums. We must find useful and pragmatic ways to achieve this. It is not easy, it is very difficult.

But there are some ideas in this regard. It is probable that the declaration to be issued at the end of the meeting of the six heads of state will specify the basic guidelines of the ideas that have been suggested and that have been discussed in the past 6 months in a very conscientious manner by the work teams which prepared this meeting of heads of state. There have been at least three international meetings of representatives to prepare the New Delhi summit. [end recording]

ECONOMY MINISTER GRINSPUN RETURNS FROM EUROPE

PY220150 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1840 GMT 21 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 21 Jan (NA) -- The Argentine economy minister, who returned from Europe today after having accomplished the refinancing of the nation's debt with the Paris Club, has reported that President Raul Alfonsin today signed the introductory statement for the 1985 draft national budget, which will be submitted to Congress "in a couple of days."

Grinspun made it clear that "there has been no reduction" in the funds allotted to the Armed Forces. "On the contrary, there has been a slight increase," he said. He went on to add that "constant values are maintained" when allotting funds to the military sector and that "the draft includes paragraphs explaining the manner in which the expenses of different years are compared."

DEFENSE MINISTRY, SUPPLIERS REACH AGREEMENT

PY182155 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1948 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan (TELAM) -- Officials of the Defense Ministry and the Argentine Union of State Suppliers (UAPE) today reached an agreement on the settlement of the debt that the Defense Ministry has with its suppliers. Supplies will continue to be delivered. This statement was made in a communique issued by the Defense Ministry, stating that a meeting between officials of the Defense Ministry and the office of the Army's staff and UAPE executives was held this morning, as scheduled, to continue the discussion of solutions aimed at bringing the payments to the suppliers up to date. The official communique adds that the talks were held at the Defense Ministry, presided over by Budget Control and Programming Under Secretary Gerardo Gargiulo, and were attended by Army logistics officials and UAPE executives.

"As a result of the talks, it was agreed to settle the debt from November and December in February 1985 while the supplies for the Army units will continue to be made normally," the communique states. The communique concludes by stating that it is the Defense Ministry's intention to make future payments within a very reasonable time.

MILITARY VIEWS ILLEGAL ACTS AS SUBVERSIVE

PY160119 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 15 Jan 85 p 7

[Text] (NA) -- A reliable military source said yesterday that the military saw similarities between the recent spate of kidnappings, thefts of firearms, and the illegal activities of subversive elements in previous years. The source explained that official police sources described these acts as the work of common criminals and there was nothing to show terrorist organizations were responsible for this new crime wave, but said the country would remain alert to what is happening in much of the rest of Latin America, where terrorist violence is spreading.

HIGH COMMAND RETIRES OLVIS ARIAS, 5 GENERALS

PY220202 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0124 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] La Paz, 21 Jan (EFE) -- Former Army Commander in Chief General Jose Olvis Arias, who on 29 December headed an uprising against President Hernan Siles Zuazo after having been discharged, and five other generals who had supported him, today were retired by the Military High Command.

The Armed Forces postings order released today states that the office of the commander in chief of the Army will determine the place of residence of these generals who have been relieved of their commands.

In addition to Gen Olvis Arias, who will not lose his rank, the following generals have been placed on active reserve: Mario Oxa, former member of the Permanent Military Court; Hugo Flores Gironda, former chief of staff of the Army; Lorgio Justiniano; Hermes Fellman; and Aroldo Pinto.

Military sources contacted by the evening newspaper LA TERCERA stated their surprise at this decision and indicated that the commanders loyal to Siles Zuazo are trying hard to break up any dangerous or subversive group within the Armed Forces.

Situation Within Armed Forces

PY230240 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2207 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] La Paz, 22 Jan (TELAM-REUTER-ANSA) -- Declarations made within the Armed Forces, in which the institutionalist military sectors do not conceal their disagreement and disgust over the last general postings order, have caused tension and expectation among the Bolivian public. This tense atmosphere has increased due to reports from Madrid stating that two of the five Bolivian military officers who sought asylum in Spain after a thwarted coup attempt against President Hernan Siles Zuazo disappeared on 8 January from the hotel at which they were staying.

Unrest within the military circles in this capital was caused by the suspension of five Army generals for not obeying the president's orders. The measure, which affected General Hugo Gironda, chief of staff of the Army, was adopted by Siles Zuazo yesterday because the mentioned officers did not accept, in principle, the replacement last month of General Jose Olvis Arias, former commander in chief of the Army. According to military sources, the sanction means that the five generals, who belong to the group officially known as institutionalists, will not be given any assignments during the next 6 months.

Regarding the group with which the sanctioned officers are identified and which expects the rightist or center rightist political parties to win the next general elections, it should be pointed out that it is one of the two sectors into which the Armed Forces are divided. The members of the other sector are known as the patriots and are headed by Armed Forces Commander General Simon Sejas Tordoya. This latter group supports Siles Zuazo's government and had an active part in thwarting two coups at the beginning of this month.

According to military sources the situation is tense. However, it is believed that this disagreement within the Armed Forces will not cause a new rebellion that might jeopardize the democratic process and it is asserted that it is most probable that the problem will be solved within the Armed Forces.

However, expectations were revived when it was learned this afternoon, through reports received from Madrid, that two Bolivian military officers charged with having taken part in a coup attempt against Siles Zuazo had disappeared. The reports from Madrid do not identify the alleged missing officers although it was learned that one of them could be Lieutenant Colonel German Linares, who allegedly is in the country after having returned clandestinely. Moreover, the Spanish Government has not disclosed any information in that regard and it is unknown whether the government in La Paz, through diplomatic channels, has made any inquiries to Madrid.

Government sources this evening did not make any comments in this regard, although it was learned that a series of consultations were under way seeking a rapprochment so that the presidential sanction against the institutionalist generals may be reviewed during the next few hours since it is considered that the decision they adopted in the first place owes mainly to their loyalty to their superior and not because they oppose the president.

GEN GUZMAN BEING SHELTERED AT PARAGUAYAN EMBASSY

PY212247 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2225 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Excerpt] A retired Bolivian general has sought asylum upon discovering that he is wanted by the Bolivian Government for inciting the Armed Forces to subversion. Air Force General Ernesto Guzman Fricke, retired, has sought asylum at the Paraguayan Embassy in La Paz after it was officially announced that he is wanted.

Gen Guzman Fricke has issued a proclamation harshly criticizing Hernan Siles Zuazo's administration and stating that the Army leadership is acting arbitrarily. The Bolivian Defense Ministry immediately stated that Gen Guzman is retired and will be tried by a civilian court for jeopardizing the stability of Bolivia's democratic process.

Gen Guzman's proclamation was published on 16 January at the very time an aborted coup d'etat headed by Colonel Rolando Saravia and Major Luis Ardaya was being reported.

Ambassador on Asylum Request

PY220248 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0216 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Excerpt] La Paz, 21 Jan (EFE) -- General Ernesto Guzman Fricke, who in several newspapers published a proclamation urging the Armed Forces to rise against the Bolivian Government, has asked for asylum at the Paraguayan Embassy in La Paz, where he has sought shelter. Paraguayan Ambassador to Bolivia Ramon Duarte Vera today confirmed to the press that the general was staying at the embassy as a refugee and that for the time being he has not been granted the status of political asylum.

Duarte Vera added that he has sent a telegram to the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry asking for instructions.

News media today reported that Paraguay had refused to grant Guzman Fricke diplomatic asylum, but added that an official communique of the Paraguayan Embassy is still being awaited.

The Paraguayan ambassador said that the Bolivian military officer sought shelter at the embassy claiming that Bolivian Interior Ministry agents were trying to arrest him.

'Provisional Refugee' Status Given

PY221408 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] Bolivian Foreign Minister Edgar Camacho Omiste yesterday reported that General Ernesto Guzman Galarza Fricke has managed to obtain provisional refugee status at the Paraguayan Embassy in La Paz.

Guzman Fricke had recently announced that he was being persecuted by the government security agency because of a paid advertisement he had published, according to the authorities, allegedly exhorting the Armed Forces to take over the country.

Minister Camacho has said that the case of Gen Guzman is not subject to military law.

Paraguayan Ambassador Ramon Duarte Vera has said that Gen Guzman is in the embassy as a provisional refugee and that his situation will be discussed with the Bolivian Government.

Foreign Minister Comments

PY222017 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Edgar Camacho has said that the Bolivian Government fully respects human rights and that no one has been arrested or persecuted for political reasons. Minister Camacho reafirmed this position of the constitutional regime with regard to a request for political asylum submitted by General Ernesto Guzman Fricke, retired, to the Paraguayan Embassy in La Paz.

Foreign Minister Camacho said that Fricke's situation as a result of the publication of an open letter is being evaluated according to military regulations. The minister pointed out that no one has been arrested or persecuted for political reasons in the country and that the constitutional government of Hernan Siles Zuazo is run by standing laws.

WORKERS RELEASE HOSTAGES, CALL GENERAL STRIKE

PY191312 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Excerpt] The Bolivian Factory Workers Confederation has decided to release the 190 hostages it has been holding at 34 factories, and at the same time it declared a general, indefinite strike.

Felipe Tapia, a factory workers union leader, said that despite the refusal of private business to grant our petitions and its provocative attitude toward our interests, we have decided to call off our stand of pressure and immediately release our hostages.

According to the labor leader, the general, indefinite strike will be maintained until the arbitration decision of 13 November 1984, granting a 200-percent increase in their basic salaries, is complied with.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON CHILE SUSPENDING TALKS

PY210037 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2347 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Excerpts] La Paz, 20 Jan (EFE) -- Bolivian foreign minister, Edgar Camacho Omiste, today told EFE that his government deplores the suspension of the meeting with his Chilean counterpart, Jaime del Valle, that was to take place in Bogota on 5 and 6 February.

Camacho today returned from Lima where he had been serving as a member of the Cartagena Agreement Board (JUNAC) since October 1982.

In an exclusive interview with EFE, the minister said that Bolivia deplores the suspension of the OAS-promoted meeting with Chile.

After getting off his plane at La Paz' El Alto Airport, the foreign minister said that in the next few hours he will brief President Hernan Siles Zuazo and that the Bolivian Government will later issue an official communique on the issue.

Minister Camacho refrained from saying whether arguments raised by the Santiago government had been an excuse not to participate in the negotiations, arguing that Bolivia must be very prudent on this issue. However, he asserted that Bolivia is prepared to participate in the meeting.

In Lima, Camacho met with Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry, with whom he arranged a meeting with Siles Zuazo on Lake Titicaca that will probably be held during the first half of February.

Government Position

PY220147 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] Late today Bolivia's official position regarding the attitude of the Pinochet government not to attend the foreign ministers meeting in Bogota was made public. The Bolivian position contrasts with that of Chile, because while the Pinochet government desisted from attending the meeting, the Bolivian Government deplores that the initiative of the Colombian president, Belisario Betancur, cannot be followed up as scheduled. In addition, Bolivia reiterates its decision to continue seeking a dialogue to find alternatives to the solution of the century-old problem of Bolivia's being landlocked.

SOVIET UNION GRANTS $220-MILLION LOAN

PY191832 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Soviet Ambassador Arkadiy Glukhov, who today held a meeting with President Hernan Siles Zuazo, has disclosed that his government has granted Bolivia a $220-million loand to finance various projects. The loan will be used to purchase equipment and machinery for the final phase of the construction of the (?machacamarca) plant. The loan reportedly will be paid back through the sale of minerals and other products to the Soviet Union.

DEL VALLE WILL NOT MEET BOLIVIANS IN BOGOTA

PY190210 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] Chile will not attend the Bogota meeting. This statement was made in a communique issued by the Chilean Foreign Ministry, stating that since the basic conditions for a fruitful understanding with Bolivia do not exist, the Chilean foreign minister is forced to decline to attend the above-mentioned Bogota meeting. The meeting was scheduled to take place on 5 and 6 February under the sponsorship of Colombian President Belisario Betancur. The official communique stated that on 14 January the Chilean foreign minister clarified the statements made by former Bolivian Foreign Minister Gustavo Fernandez. The communique then stated that the Bolivian Government has not given a definite response to the concrete issues that have been raised.

The communique added that the latest official Bolivian statement insists on holding multilateral negotiations in accord with an OAS resolution, which Chile voted against. It added that the Bolivian Senate has unanimously asked the executive branch to suspend the talks with Chile, thus making evident the lack of backing to any agreement that may be reached. This, according to the Chilean Foreign Ministry, undermines the alleged national consensus existing in Bolivia to carry on with the talks agreed upon. The communique concluded by stating that there are basic differences hindering any rapprochement that would truly reflect the spirit of authentic good-neighborliness and harmony that the Chilean Government has traditionally shown in its relations with Bolivia.

Foreign Minister's Remarks

PY221156 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2200 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle today said that Chile is still willing to talk with Bolivia but that Bolivia had taken steps to interrupt the dialogue. The minister also said he is no longer interested in commenting on U.S. opinions about the Chilean democratization process. Concerning Bolivia, the foreign minister said: Quote, the government is willing to hold talks provided that concrete results are guaranteed, unquote. He added that Chile will always be ready to hold talks.

[Begin Del Valle recording -- broadcast in progress] ...ready to hold talks to prove to the other Latin American countries that Chile is not responsible for the current situation because the Bolivian Foreign Ministry has always tried to interrupt the dialogue. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle pointed out that he is really disappointed because all the work done during the various meetings held in 1985 [as heard] had been frustrated by the Bolivian attitude. However, the minister did not rule out the possibility of talking with the Bolivian foreign minister in the Dominican Republic during a meeting of various Latin American economy and foreign affairs ministers on 6 February to discuss the foreign debt problem. Minister Jaime del Valle said that the meeting will give him the opportunity to talk with Bolivian Foreign Minister Edgar Camacho and to measure the extent of Bolivia's willingness for a dialogue between the two countries. Del Valle also expressed his hope that the current situation will not lead to a total interruption of the contacts between the two countries. Asked about Brazilian President-elect Tancredo Neves' promise to support Chilean democratic movements, Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle said he preferred to wait until Neves assumes the presidency before commenting on his remarks. As for U.S. official Vernon Walters' remark supporting the democratization of Chile, Jaime del Valle said: Quote, they are always interested in Chile's return to democracy and comment about Chile. However, I believe we have had enough of it; I will not comment simply because I am not interested, unquote.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES CONTADORA PROCESS

PA211241 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1715 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Interview with Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo by Jose Fernandez Gomez during the "Personality of the Week" show; date not given -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Fernandez] Mr Minister, in his response to the new Colombian ambassador to Washington, President Reagan reasserted that he will continue to offer support for the Contadora process, but Mr Reagan also said: We will continue providing the necessary assistance. This phrase could be interpreted in a number of ways, particularly considering that the United States currently gives assistance to the enemies of the Nicaraguan Government. Does this phrase lend itself to a variety of interpretations?

[Ramirez Ocampo] I don't think the phrase even needs to be interpreted. It is quite clear to me. We have been trying to prevent outside interference in the Central American issue. This is one of the bases and starting points of our efforts. Of course, regarding the matter, we demand the support of the superpowers and those countries that have clear interests in the area. The Contadora Document proposes to include the idea that no country should intervene in neighboring countries. The document also specifically stipulates that subversion in any of these neighboring countries should not be supported. We think, therefore, that it is indispensable for countries to refrain from supporting armed subversion, which destabilizes these countries' governments. For instance, we especially frown on U.S. Congress budget appropriations that support subversive groups in a Central American country, in the same manner that we condemn any support for subversives in other Central American countries.

[Fernandez Gomez] In addition, Mr Minister, the Contadora efforts have been supported by many and varied sectors, such as the pope, the Spanish Government, European countries, the UN Security Council, and the U.S. Democratic Party. Hasn't this support turned out to be purely romantic and ineffectual?

[Ramirez Ocampo] I believe that no Colombian international proposal has ever proven to be so important throughout the world or received so much support. The Contadora Document includes a freezing of armament and even a reduction in the number of weapons. Some countries, however, have contained to supply arms to Central American countries. As a result of this, tension has continued and even increased. For this reason, we have made provision for a so-called additional protocol. This is a declaration by each country having interests in the area, stating that it supports the Contadora purposes and pledges to fulfill them.

[Fernandez Gomez] With due respect, Mr Minister, that is what I referred to when I said that perhaps the support we have mentioned has turned out to be romantic and ineffectual. The unity of the Central American countries is in such a state that when commitments are required, this unity seems to slow down indefinitely. These countries seem to say: As long as so-and-so does not do this or that, I won't either. Considering this and all the efforts led by Colombia, what practical, immediate results have you noticed?

[Ramirez Ocampo] Enormous results. We can say with satisfaction that we have prevented the war, the overall war, that appeared to be close at hand a few years ago. Of course, we have not achieved the general, total peace we all long for. However, along this road to peace, which cannot be understood simply in terms of signing a document, we have made many useful efforts so that, for example, many Central American countries have made headway in implementing democratic procedures.

There have been elections in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. Of course, Costa Rica has always been a model throughout the world.

[Fernandez Gomez] Mr Minister, at the beginning of your last answer you said four key words: We have prevented war. I remember that President Betancur used those same words when he analyzed the Contadora effort after 1 year. That is true, as is the fact that guerrilla actions have continued in El Salvador -- apparently supported by Nicaragua -- as well as in this latter country, and the arms race has accelerated. We have to continue talking, perhaps for months and even years. Don't you think that a situation that remains unsolved, such as that in Chile and Bolivia, leads people to feel disillusioned?

[Ramirez Ocampo] You have mentioned two examples: First, the internal war in El Salvador. Observe how the Contadora effort has also created a favorable climate there for a dialogue to be initiated. We all pray for this dialogue to crystallize in specific, useful results. This case of El Salvador is interesting. The elections were criticized from the outset. Even though there was much criticism about the way the elections were held and the fact that some groups did not participate in them, President Duarte has consolidated his position and internationally he has been given an opportunity. In a gesture that the world has recognized, he called the insurgents to a dialogue that at least has created the conditions for talks and, on occasion, for a cease-fire, as occurred during Christmas and New Year's. In any case, this permits one to think that they are on the path to a solution.

In the case of Nicaragua, the electoral process was also criticized. We were very active. We spoke with the Democratic Coordinating Board, Arturo Cruz, and many other people, encouraging everyone to participate in the elections because another interesting aspect of Contadora is its encouragement of democratic processes. The effort was not fully successful, but in any case there is a consolidated political reality in Nicaragua. President Daniel Ortega took office on 10 January, just as President Duarte did previously. Despite all the criticism that can be formulated about the elections, I think that Daniel Ortega's exericse of power will bring about the international and internal space he needs to consolidate a government system and maintain the democratic pluralism to which we are very committed.

[Fernandez Gomez] Some people put things in the following way: These Contadora gentlemen are persuading the Central American countries to do the things you just mentioned with specific examples, in other words, trying to get a dialogue in El Salvador and trying to achieve pluralism in Nicaragua. But the Contadora gentlemen do not want to admit that the problem is Castro-Washington or USSR-Washington. The commentators constantly ask: Why don't these Contadora gentlemen just go directly to Washington and Moscow and put the cards on the table and say: Nothing can be done without you. I ask this question because you had the opportunity to meet with Cuban President Fidel Castro in Managua a few days ago. I have reliable information indicating that you spoke at length with him. Did that experience leave you with a positive impression about talking with Castro and President Reagan and putting Contadora's cards on the table?

[Ramirez Ocampo] We are acting in good faith, but not naively in our negotiations. We are acting with great realism. We know that there are interests in the area. We have wanted to remove the Central American conflicts from the context of the East-West conflict. We believe that to achieve this we need the cooperation of the United States, Cuba, and the Soviet Union. This is political realism. For that purpose we maintain permanent contact, I repeat permanent contact, with Ambassador Shlaudeman, who has been directly appointed by President Reagan as ambassador for Central American affairs.

In Brasilia I held an extensive meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz to analyze the entire situation. In the same way, it must be recognized that Cuba is a country that has interests in the area. It is part of the Central American and Caribbean region as well as of Latin America. Therefore, it is one of the factors within the negotiations process. Through the Contadora countries that maintain relations with Cuba, we also keep permanently informed about the progress of the talks, just as we keep almost all the developed countries and the socialist countries informed.

You stated that I recently spoke with President Castro. That is true. I was present at the inauguration of Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua and Commander Fidel Castro arrived unexpectedly. He never announces anything due to security reasons. I had the opportunity to speak with him twice, during the luncheon and dinner held by President Ortega for the heads of the delegations. We had a lengthy and in-depth meeting. We discussed the Latin American crises, particularly the one in Central America. We spoke freely and I think with great realsim. President Castro made a statement that he later repeated during the dedication of the Victoria de Julio sugar mill in Nicaragua, a very important statement that I do not believe has been sufficiently noted by the public. Castro told me and a large group of people in Nicaragua: Revolutions are not exported because each country has special characteristics; therefore no one can be naive enough to think that he can export his revolution. I think it is very significant that Castro said this. Revolutions cannot be stopped; in other words, once the internal conditions have been created, revolutions cannot be stopped. However, each country must have the government it wants. This is a principle that Colombian diplomacy has always defended. Each country has the right to establish the government it wants without foreign interference. This is free self-determination. I think Castro's statement is very important with regard to the Contadora negotiations because each country must be guaranteed that it can establish the government it wants -- we hope a democratic one -- and the economic system it believes advisable -- we hope the best one. But at the same time we must guarantee to the international community that a country will not become a center for violent export of a revolution to its neighboring countries.

[Fernandez Gomez] Excuse me Mr Minister, but let me object to what you just said, with the passion of a man concerned about peace. President Fidel Castro's statement could also be interpreted in the sense that revolutions are not exported, but are and can be supported with weapons. I want to make this clear so that the listeners will not think that the Colombian foreign minister wants so much for things to be like this or that he is too literally interpreting Fidel Castro's statement. I say this with great respect, Mr Minister.

[Ramirez Ocampo] The essence of the statement is just that. Saying that revolutions are not exported means that one must not support the export of those revolutions because they cannot be exported. I think that is the significance of the statement. I want to tell you that President Castro also told us very clearly that he fully supports the Contadora process. What is more, he told us that Cuba is willing to do whatever the Contadora countries believe is useful in the Central American peace process, to support the Contadora Document that is signed, and to commit itself to the obligations that the document might establish for the countries which have interests in the area.

[Fernandez Gomez] The Contadora Group had called a meeting for 14 and 15 February for the Contadora and the Central American foreign ministers. It is believed that the purpose of this meeting is to sign a document to which modifications have been introduced. Is the situation like some commentators put it: Either on 14 and 15 February these countries will agree on a peace document that does not mean peace but is an agreement on how peace should be achieved; or the Contadora effort is going to be definitely buried?

[Ramirez Ocampo] Permit me to say that there are several inaccuracies in your question. The first is that it is not a foreign ministers meeting. The meeting we have convened is one of plenipotentiaries in accordance with what was established on 7 September. These countries have not been called to the 14 and 15 February meeting to sign the document but to discuss the differences that still exist regarding the document. These include the issue of verification and control and the security topics.

[Fernandez Gomez] Therefore, this is just the beginning of another phase. Can you clarify whether the plenipotentiaries can be the foreign ministers?

[Ramirez Ocampo] Of course. Each government will decide who will be its plenipotentiary. In any event, the Contadora foreign ministers will not attend the meeting. For example, in my case, on 15 February I will be at the meeting of the Ecuadoran and Colombian presidents at the border to discuss all the issues concerning the problems and the development of our border with Ecuador.

[Fernando Gomez] Your Foreign Ministry has been specifically criticized for being too concerned about Contadora and somewhat neglecting the border problems. The people ask: Why is there so much concern about Central America when there are some border problems that this government has neglected? Are there grounds for this criticism?

[Ramirez Ocampo] I must begin by stating something that must be stressed to the Colombians every day. When I was a student, I was taught that Colombia's borders are: Venezuela on the east; Brazil, Ecuador, and Peru on the south; and Panama on the west. That was all. There are still people today who think that those are the only Colombian borders. In fact Colombia has borders with 12 nations. Colombia has a [sea] border with practically all the Central American countries and many of the Caribbean countries. Therefore, our task with regard to the borders requires the daily attention of the Foreign Ministry. Perhaps it is the fundamental task because, due to Colombia's efforts along with all the world's nations in creating the law of the sea, we are aware that there is as much wealth in the sea as on land. Can you believe that at this time Colombia has 1 million square km of sea, in other words, as much as it has land. Therefore, the task of completing that delimitation requires daily attention from the Foreign Ministry and myself. We have not neglected it. What happens is that these kinds of negotiations cannot be aired on television and radio. One cannot reach international agreements with the negotiators over loudspeakers. We are daily and carefully working on this task, and we are achieving progress. We are aware that this is one of the essential issues in our country.

[Fernandez Gomez] To include a very difficult but specifically Colombian topic in this interview, I want to ask you the following question: After some Colombians were turned over to the United States recently as criminals, what can efforts by your ministry to demand good treatment for those extradited individuals achieve?

[Ramirez Ocampo] This is another essential task of the Foreign Ministry. We have the obligation to watch over the nationals who leave our borders for any reason, even if extradited or if they have committed a crime abroad. We have instructed our diplomats abroad in this regard so that they will not become lazy and so that they will carry out their tasks.

In the specific case of those recently extradited, we have acted rapidly and clearly. We presented a formal protest note to the U.S. Government so that their procedural, political, and human rights will be guaranteed; and, second, so that the legal process will clearly deal with those points for which the extradition took place and not for additional reasons.

That is clearly established in the treaty. Third, we demanded that their prison conditions be sufficiently adequate and healthful so that their status as human beings will not be harmed. I used a phrase that was frequently highlighted in the United States. It is not very diplomatic, but I think it was the appropriate one at the time when the Colombians were being treated like wild beasts. We are not accustomed to seeing people with chains around their hands, waists, and feet. That occurred to galley slaves and wild beasts.

[Fernandez Gomez] Continuing with the same topic, about a year ago some Colombian delegates went to the United States to begin talks to study the possibility of revising the extradition treaty. Has this been shelved, or has the Foreign Ministry been discretely thinking about the possibility of modifying the extradition treaty?

[Ramirez Ocampo] We have not only been thinking about this, but also negotiating: A first meeting has already been held. Others will follow. We are working on this and also on the modification of the so-called mutual legal assistance treaty. I think that when we see the way Colombians are treated abroad, we see another substantial point on which we must reach agreement with the countries with which we have signed extradition treaties. I do not think the situation of the accused should be worse abroad than what they would face here. They should be treated the same way and have complete procedural guarantees in their trials.

[Fernandez Gomez] Regarding your vigorous statement about the treatment of those extradited, I must respectfully ask you the following question: How do you reconcile the fact that you are standing up in a dignified manner to a powerful government like the United States and almost arrogantly, but justifiably, criticizing the treatment of nationals, with the attitude you adopt when you must beg that same powerful country to help Colombia financially?

[Ramirez Ocampo] It is clear that our relations with the United States or with any nation are not arrogant relations. Our relations with all countries are relations of mutual respect. However, in order for mutual respect ot exist, we believe it is essential that things be made very clear. We have been working with the United States in a large number of fields in a creative manner. I have been told that President Belisario Betancur will soon be invited to the United States again. I think that there are very great possibilities for the development of our relations with the United States in all fields, including the cultural, economic, and commercial fields. Now then, we make the difficulties that exist in those relations very clear. For example, we have been working intensely on the topic of textile quotas and the treatment of some airlines that are facing difficulties and are basic for the transportation of our flowers. We have been clarifying the information regarding tourists now visiting Colombia. In short, we must be clear in these types of problems. However, one must not confuse clarity with arrogance or frankness, or with discouragement or prejudice against relations that are excellent.

ARGENTINE ULTRARIGHTIST GROUP MEMBER DEPORTED

PA181733 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] Bogota -- Former Argentine Army Captain Carlos Alfredo Lobo Lopez has been deported to Buenos Aires under conditions of very strict security measures. He left on a commercial plane. Argentina has accused him of participating in the ultrarightist Triple A, which was active during the previous military governments in Argentina.

COLORADO COMMENTARY DECRIES U.S. CONGRESSMEN

PY221533 Asuncion Domstic Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 21 Jan 85

["Voice of the Colorado Party" program commentary]

[Text] The Government Junta of the National Republican Association now presents the "Voice of the Colorado Party."

For a great, happy, and prosperous Paraguay; for a permanent respect for peace, democracy, social justice, and the freedom of the glorious Paraguayan people; against subversive political preaching aimed at dividing the Paraguayan family. [Colorado Party song]

Some days have passed since the visit by U.S. Congressmen Peter Kostmayer and Robert Torricelli. We want to make it clear that we do not intend to give them more than the little importance they deserve. In our opinion, they were merely two daring tourists and a couple of liars, because they did not do what they said they were going to do.

But this does not matter. Neither do we care nor are we concerned, because, and we shall reiterate this now, even though the evening branch [ULTIMA HORA newspaper] of the lousy newspaper [ABC COLOR] may dislike it, there are neither secrets nor anything else to conceal in this country.

The facts of the matter are that the northern visitors came, in theory, to get acquainted with the work under way at their embassy. However, the only thing they did was to stick their nose in Paraguayan domestic affairs. Like bold musketeers, these two fellows rashly attacked issues that are of exclusive Paraguayan concern. The authors of the Monroe Doctrine, who have so loudly proclaimed that America is only for Americans, have forgotten that, similarly, Paraguay belongs exclusively to Paraguayans.

But, obviously, they were not alone. The Yegros Street gay [last word in English] who was vacationing in Camboriu, quickly left the Brazilian beaches and rushed to Asuncion in a jet to cry over his misfortune before his U.S. messiahs.

The same thing happened with the bearded director of the opposition radio station who vomited his lamentations, distorting his real situation. Nobody has prohibited him from presenting radio programs. The only thing that has been asked of him is to comply with the law. Let us not fool each other! Give your radio announcers license, period.

But, going back to Kostmayer and Torricelli, they were given all the facilities which they never imagined they would have. General Alfredo Stroessner, the president of the Republic, received them in his office. The president was standing and looked happy during the audience; he was neither sick nor sitting on a chair as anti-Paraguayan propaganda agents have claimed. They found a strong, healthy, lucid, upright, talented, and open man, instead of the sad, embittered, depressed, and prostrate man infamously portrayed by THE WASHINGTON POST not long ago through the mercenary and slandering pen of one of the many scribes paid by Marxism.

But Kostmayer and Torricelli could not help believing that they were the champions of freedom, democracy, human rights, freedom of the press, and the champions of champions!

Shortly before leaving, they made some remarks typically used by the propaganda campaign orchestrated by anti-Paraguayan agents and by traitors. They surely picked them from the propaganda slogans heard abroad. We will quote them and we will briefly comment on each of their remarks because it is worth keeping them for the record and not because those who made them are important. On the contrary, the influence of their presence in our country was the size of a quail egg, that is, nonexistent.

They said that they recognized that our country's human rights record had improved. What about this! Those who have been killing a person a week on the electric chair for 100 years are not entitled to speak about human rights. Further, less than 2 months ago they killed a poor old woman of 78, a grandmother, in that tragic chair.

And what about the detestable racial discrimination in a country in which the color of one's skin can be in itself derogatory. And these are the people who came to talk to us about human rights! New York's black Harlem is nothing but the modern version of the sinister Nazi ghettos.

As for the cocaine-processing chemicals seized in our country, the visitors almost gave the order to destroy them. Unbelievable, but true. It so happens that the eight containers carrying the chemicals were seized by the Paraguayan customs office. All the appropriate legal steps were taken. Since they are smuggled goods, the chemicals will be treated as such. Nobody has asked who shipped the containers and to whom they were shipped. Nobody has asked why the country that produces such chemicals cleared an eight-container order, or for that matter, why the United States -- which can use a missile to control a Soviet canoe that happens to cross the Atlantic -- could not control or supervise this impressive shipment.

They also defended the closed, lousy newspaper. Kostmayer and Torricelli said that the lousy newspaper -- owned by the gay who is in love with his wife but who is crazy for his male lover -- must be reopened as soon as possible. We will repeat what they said because this sounds like an order: be reopened as soon as possible.

This is why it is increasingly difficult for us to understand some U.S. citizens. On the one hand, they condemn communism, subversion, Marxism, and guerrilla activities. Yet on the other, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz meets Foreign Minister Andrey Grom ko in Geneva. Before this meeting, White House envoy Harry Shlaudeman held 10 rounds of talks with Nicaraguan Sandinist leaders. What does all this mean? What is your true position, Messrs Kostmayer and Torricelli? Have you forgotten the famous Shakespearean question: To be or not to be?

The constitutional and democratic Colorado government headed by President Stroessner has adopted a firm and categorical political stand. It is against communism because communism means subversion, violence, guerrillas, chaos, and anarchy.

The lousy newspaper turned into the open mouthpiece of subversion. Therefore, it was not possible to beat about the bush. We had to be or not to be, and we decided to continue to be. We removed the tumor from the body of the nation, and that's all.

In the face of the verbal aggression that this couple of misguided Democrats of the U.S. congress aimed against us, we could also send a group of lawmakers to the United States and ask their leaders why they negotiate with the USSR while they claim that they fight Communism, or why they talk on an equal footing with the leftist Nicaraguans while claiming that they fight Marxist policies. Why don't they give an example of compliance with the Monroe Doctrine?

We could also send a group of Paraguayan lawmakers to express to President Reagan our concern for the urgent need to solve the drug consumption problem in the United States. We are also entitled to send a delegation of congressmen to tell them that the Paraguayan people are concerned over the fact that the United States is the world's largest consumer of drugs.

The Paraguayan people are concerned over the actions of the Chicago gangsters and the New York Mafia.

According to the EFE news agency, in 1984 U.S. marijuana production was worth $16.6 billion. After corn, marijuana was the most profitable U.S. crop. Thus, the Kostmayers and Torricellis must first look to their own house to see whether they can afford to throw stones at their neighbor. They see the speck in another's eye and not the beam in their own. Like it or not, Paraguay is a country at the peacemaking progress in freedom and democracy. And it will not be the champions of drug addiction, the champions of the electric chair executions, the champions of racial discrimination, and, above all, the ones who are negotiating with communists who will impose guidelines on us and teach us democracy as if they were universal judges. Gentlemen: Paraguay is only of and for Paraguayans! [from song praising President Stroessner]

CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT DISCUSSES ECONOMY

PY222145 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 20 Jan 85 p 9

[Interview with Cesar Romeo Acosta, Central Bank president; questioner not identified, date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Question] What was the unemployment rate and the variation of the salary index in 1984?

[Answer] The unemployment rate dropped considerably during 1984. It went from 13.9 percent to 8.3 percent. The economic reactivation has created new jobs which in turn have increased income and overall demand. The workers' salary index increased an average 19.5 percent and the minimum salary increased by 32.25 percent in 1984 (15 percent granted on 1 June and 15 percent on 1 September 1984)

[Question] How much was our foreign debt on 31 December 1984 and how much is it per person?

[Answer] On 31 December our foreign debt amounted to $1,580 million, which represents a 1.5 percent increase over 1983. Our foreign debt per person amounts to $442.

[Question] What was the total at the end December 1984, in millions of dollars, of the expired letters of credit which the Central Bank has to reimburse?

[Answer] On 31 December 1984 expired letters of credit that the Central Bank has to reimburse amounted to $23.1 million.

[Question] In your opinion, what are the results of the exchange policy implemented in late May 1984, now that 7 months have elapsed since it was put in force?

[Answer] The exchange regulations implemented in May 1984 had a positive impact on the economy. The type of exchange was made more simple, exports increased, the harvest prices of export goods improved, imports dropped, and they contributed to rationalizing foreign payments.

[Question] What other steps must be taken in order to achieve the total recovery of our economy?

[Answer] In order to increase the economic growth rate the government has adopted timely measures to support production. The banking system has granted more credit to the productive sector; means of payment as well as savings have increased. The establishment of minimum harvest prices has encouraged agricultural production and exports. In the future the strengthening of the mechanisms to support production will mark a new phase in the encouragement of economic growth. The priority treatment given to the allocation of public resources to the productive sectors and the strengthening of technical and financial aid to agricultural and industrial sectors will considerably favor the economic expansion. Moreover, the coordination of economic and financial measures by organizations linked to the execution of economic development programs will contribute to support balanced economic growth.

DE LA MADRID LEAVES ON VISIT TO SPAIN, INDIA

PA222215 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2146 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Jan (EFE) -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid traveled this afternoon to Nassau, Bahamas, and from there he will travel to Palma de Mallorca (Spain), Belgrade, and New Delhi. In Palma de Mallorca, the Mexican president will meet with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, and in Belgrade with his Yugoslav counterpart Veselin Djuranovic. In New Delhi, De la Madrid will participate in a meeting on disarmament that will be held on the 29th of this month, and which will also be attended by his colleagues from Argentina, Raul Alfonsin; and Tanzania, Julius Nyerere; and the prime ministers of India, Rajiv Gandhi; of Greece, Andreas Papandreou; and of Sweden, Olof Palme.

From 29 to 31 January the Mexican president will make an official visit to India.

The Mexican president was bid farewell at the presidential hanger by several of his colleagues and ambassadors accredited to his country.

De la Madrid is accompanied, among others, by Foreign Affairs Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda; leader of the Chamber of Senators Miguel Gonzalez Avelar; Planning and Budget Minister Carlos Salinas de Gortari; Presidential Chief of Staff General Carlos Humberto Bermudez; and presidential spokesman Manuel Alonso.

In the Indian capital the group will be joined by former Mexican Foreign Affairs Secretary Alfonso Garcia Robles, a 1982 Nobel Peace Price winner and permanent Mexican representative to international disarmament organizations.

DE LA MADRID ON DEBT PROBLEM, DISARMAMENT MEETING

FL212038 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0003 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- President Miguel de la Madrid said today that he favored a broad economic approach in dealing with the international debt problem because the payment of interests is such a heavy burden to debtors.

In an interview with the Belgrade, Yugoslavia daily POLITKA, the head of state said the international community should find formulas so that interest rate variations do not endanger normality in the fulfillment agreements.

Regarding the international disarmament meeting to be held on 28 January in New Delhi, India, he said the meeting intends to unify the world's outcry for disarmament negotiations, the reduction of military spending, and the utilization of those resources in developing activities to benefit humanity.

Regarding the meeting with heads of state from Argentina, Greece, India, Sweden, and Tanzania, President De la Madrid stressed the diversity of the sociopolitical systems and development levels of the participating countries and emphasized that peace interests all peoples of the earth.

He said the call made by the participating countries for nuclear powers to reestablish and continue disarmament talks and negotiations has had some affect.

To the extent that the nuclear powers' arms spending decreases and the degree to which this is reflected in the other countries, those enormous resources could be used in other development activities.

The Mexican head of state stressed the need for Mexico and Yugoslavia to continue this year encouraging international detente, which began with the good sign of the reasonably positive results obtained at the Geneva meeting between the USSR and United States.

He said his next visit to Yugoslavia will be an attempt to confirm friendship ties and agreements between the two countries and to tackle the needs of the international community to act on economic matters, because the economic crisis has hit countries like Yugoslavia and Mexico hard.

De la Madrid said he will also examine specific ways that the great friendship between the two countries can be translated into the broadening of bilateral relations.

SEPULVEDA ON NEW DELHI MEETING, TIES WITH CANADA

FL181910 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0055 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 17 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico's Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda said here today that the forthcoming meeting among the six heads of state and governments in New Delhi will bring a universal clamor in favor of reason and the people's legitimate aspirations for progress.

At a dinner which he held for his Canadian counterpart Joe Clark, Sepulveda said that solutions to the cause and effects ensuing out of the international economic crisis could not be postponed. He said the foreign debt, trade protectionism, and insufficient financial, scientific, and technological resources risk the economic futures of nations and alter the political and social stability of many countries.

Sepulveda said that this historical period demands a new understanding between Latin American and industrialized nations on the imperatives of stability and development. He said that in that sense Mexico and Canada could do significant work, by stimulating a more dynamic and equitable inter-American cooperation.

On Central America, Sepulveda said that Canada has been a significant ally in peace efforts and that due to Canada's peaceful history and its respected international activity, it could in the near future provide a relevant contribution to agreements in the eventual adoption of the Central American peace and cooperation accord.

The Canadian minister and Sepulveda exchanged notes this morning on starting a tourism cooperation agreement which had been signed in Ottawa during President Miguel de la Madrid's tour.

DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR ENERGY TALKS IN EUROPE

FL230020 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2333 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican officials will hold bilateral talks with ministers of petroleum or energy from OPEC member and nonmember nations while on a tour through Europe, it was announced here today.

Mexico's Secretary of Energy, Mines, and Parastate Industry (SEMIP) Francisco Labastida Ochoa left today for Copenhagen, heading a mission which included officials from SEMIP, the Foreign Secretariat, and Mexican Petroleum.

In Copenhagen, Labastida Ochoa will meet with Norway's Minister of Oil and Energy Kaare Kristiansen, who is attending a meeting there with his Scandinavian colleagues. The Mexican delegation will attend the inauguration of a special OPEC conference in Geneva, Switzerland on 28 January.

The Mexican delegation includes SEMIP Under Secretary of Energy Eliseo Mendoza Berrueto, Under Secretary for Foreign Economic Matters Jorge Eduardo Navarrete, and Mexican Petroleum's international trade adviser Pedro Hass. The delegation's trip is part of a policy for consulting and communicating with other international petroleum market participants started by Mexico's President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado.

BUDGET SECRETARY PRESENTS DECENTRALIZATION PROGRAM

FL221512 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0335 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- The Government of Mexico today announced the federal public administration decentralization program, under which qualitative changes in the country's social structure, economy, and politics will be initiated.

Planning and Budget Secretary Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who presented the program, pointed out that it meets the specifications of the objectives of the federal government's National Development Plan and that it is a response to the conviction that a crisis can only be overcome if the problems leading to it are attacked. He specified that decentralization is not just the movement of companies, offices, and people from the capital to the states of the republic; it is also the deconcentration of the administrative process, the strengthening of regional ability to make decisions, and the linking of those decisions to the development of the regions. Salinas de Gortari said the transfer would be carried out in a gradual and organized manner in order to take care of any problems that arise and to prepare the cities and people outside the capital to accommodate these services in the future.

Salinas de Gortari told 31 governors and the secretaries of state of the Mexican Government that the measure is aimed at moving the decisionmaking process to the areas where the services are used. He added that this is a permanent institutional adjustment that modifies procedures, and transforms internal communication mechanisms in the public sector and the relations between the people using government services and the administration that provides them.

Among the strategies are proposals to adjust the structures and instruments of government entities to increase the efficiency of their actions and public policies, to channel society's demands with greater flexibility, to improve the quality and timeliness of the institutions' responses, and to create new bases of support for national development.

He emphasized that the deconcentration of decisions would depend on the characteristics of each administrative sector because there are functions of the government which require centralized decisionmaking because of their nature. There are others which, in order to be efficient, must be made in the place where the service is rendered. Thus, in the Secretariats of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources, Agrarian Reform, and Fishing, there will be a thorough reorganization to assure deconcentrated operation at the state, municipal, community, and production-unit level.

The program establishes conditions for the transfer of educational and health services to the state governors.

The areas responsible for the expansion and consolidation of the national infrastructure (Secretariats of Communications and Transport; Energy, Mines, and Parastate Industry; Urban Development and Ecology; and Tourism) will take decentralization and deconcentration steps that strengthen their coordination with the country's states and municipalities.

The areas of government service and economic development, such as the Secretariats of Government, Foreign Relations, Finance, and Planning and Budget, the Comptroller General's Office, the Attorney General's Office, and the Labor Secretariat will be deconcentrated to increase their efficieny in carrying out their affairs, to facilitate administrative procedures, and to help bring about conditions that will permit the social and private sectors to make their own decisions in a timely fashion.

In summary, Salinas de Gortari said the aim of deconcentration is to bring government services closer to the people. He said that these decisions are being incorporated into 1985 budget planning.

President Comments on Program

FL221621 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0345 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico's President Miguel de la Madrid today said the decentralization of domestic life is one of the structural changes that should be accelerated not only to modify the guidelines for domestic growth but also to overcome the economic crisis of the past years.

De la Madrid spoke after the decentralization program of the federal public administration was presented, and said that one of the causes of inefficiency and low productivity in the national economic system can be found in the centralization phenomena which should be overcome. The decentralization programs of domestic life should not stop with government activity. The government should also encourage corresponding behaviors and attitudes in different areas of society, he said.

De la Madrid said these government programs will be announced extensively and will be presented for the consideration of society, which is aware that the actions taken or announced today are only a part of a process which should be expanded.

He said we are waging the battle of our development on every front. We have acknowledged that the crisis which has affected us in recent years is not only due to foreign but to domestic causes, and the government must face problems in both areas. He added that on the domestic front, the battle is being waged through solidarity with all Mexicans. On the foreign front, he suggested that the Mexican people show their traditional dignity.

JAPANESE ATTACHE ON INCREASING CRUDE SALES

FL222220 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1815 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 22 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico could increase its exports of crude to Japan to overcome possible instability in the Middle East, Kusumasa Itaya, financial attache at the Japanese Embassy in Mexico City, has said. At present Mexico sells 110,000 of barrels of crude a day to Japan, and Itaya said this quota could reach 160,000 barrels.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON RELATIONS WITH U.S.

PA222244 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Interview with Foreign Minister Fernando Cardoze Fabrega by unidentified questioner in Panama City on 21 January -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Questioner] Foreign Minister, how would you describe U.S.-Panamanian relations at this time?

[Cardoze] I would say that Panama's relations with the United States are being conducted with maturity, on a level befitting two partners. Regarding the canal, we maintain our firm position that the canal treaties should be fulfilled, particularly the 1977 treaty. This is the Foreign Ministry's invariable position; therefore we are inflexible regarding the need to replace Law 96-70, which strays from the agreements, many times, to Panama's detriment. In general terms, relations between Panama and the United States are conducted on a mature level, on a level befitting associates in a business as important as the Panama Canal.

CARDOZE: U.S. MUST PAY FOR GAILARD CUT

PA220044 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Jan 85 p 12 A

[Text] Yesterday, Panamanian Foreign Minister Fernando Cardoze Fabrega admitted that there is no magic formula to determine in the year 2000 whether Panama or the U.S. Government must assume the astronomical debt contracted in order to widen the Gailard Cut. At the end of the second consecutive round of meetings held by the Panama Canal Commission Board of Directors, of which he is a member, Foreign Minister Cardoze stated that Panama's stance was that "the United States must bear the expenses" for the Gailard Cut and any other current or future capital investment.

"The Panama Canal treaties stated that the United States bears the major responsibility for administrating, operating, and defending the canal until the year 2000. In that year the Panama Canal is to revert to Panama free of cost," the minister explained. According to Minister Cardoze, Panama's stance is such that even if a complex and far-reaching project is undertaken, in the year 2000 Panama must receive a canal that is not only in perfect operating order, but is also improved, competitive, and able to meet the needs of international trade at the beginning of the 21st century. The minister reported that one of the studies under way concerning the Gailard Cut, the narrowest strip along the passageway, involves finding different financial sources. "This is a major project and for that reason we have been conducting technical, economic, ecological, and financial surveys to study different financing sources," Cardoze added. Until we have such studies, we will not be able to reach a final decision, Cardoze said.

Commenting on the Board of Directors' meetings yesterday and today, the foreign minister said that the board discussed the 1986-1987 budget guidelines and also growing Panamanian participation in the passageway's administration and operations. The latter is something usually discussed during these meetings. Cardoze also stated that the main goals are to "Panamanianize" and "modernize" the Panama Canal. The former term means to increase Panamanians' participation at all administrative levels; to modernize means to prevent the equipment and instruments needed to operate the canal from becoming obsolete, Cardoze explained.

As for the growing participation of Panamanians in the canal's operations, Cardoze said that Panama has emphasized the need to increase the number of Panamanian pilots, because there are currently 18 Panamanian pilots out of a total of 248.

The minister stressed that the Panamanian members of the Panama Canal Board of Directors have looked into and questioned the requirements a Panamanian must meet to work as a pilot. Their goal is to expedite the process. The foreign minister said that the Panamanian Government will continue to denounce Law 96-70, as it is a negative element which hinders the good relationship that should prevail between Panama and the United States.

OYDEN ORTEGA ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CANAL TREATIES

PA212117 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 20 Jan 85 p 8 B

[Article by former Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega Duran: "Economic Aspects of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties"; capitalized passages published in boldface; quotation marks as published]

[Text] A) PAYMENTS TO THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT

An aspect that has drawn the attention of the Panamanian Government has been the expenses that are charged to the Panama Canal administration rather than directly to the U.S. Government. By order of Law 96-70, known as the Murphy Law, many of these expenses are charged to the Panama Canal administration; this reduces the economic benefits that Panama obtains from the profits generated by the canal's administration.

We must explain that the economic aspects are not the most important part of the treaties' implementation. The treaties were negotiated under the same criteria. However, the basic principle is that which was agreed upon must be complied with. THERE ARE OTHER ASPECTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATIES WHICH PANAMA MUST EMPHASIZE BEGINNING WITH EVERYTHING THAT CONCERNS THE PROGRAM FOR THE GROWING PARTICIPATION OF PANAMANIANS IN THE CANAL COMMISSION; THE PROGRAM OF IMPROVEMENTS SO THAT WHEN THE CANAL REVERTS TO PANAMA IT WILL BE IN A CONDITION OF EFFICIENCY AND COMPETITIVENESS; AND THE NEED TO HAVE LAW 96-70 -- THE MAIN SOURCE OF PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE CORRECT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CANAL TREATIES -- AMENDED. ONLY IN THIS WAY CAN WE GUARANTEE AN ORDERLY AND JUST IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TORRIJOS-CARTER TREATIES FOR PANAMA.

Law 96-70 lists the magnitudes that will be computed to determine the surplus, which will result in the payment to Panama. This is established in Section 1341 (4) which states: "No payment can be made to the Republic of Panama, in accordance with Paragraph 4 (C) of Article XIII of the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977, unless unused funds are used to pay all canal operation and maintenance costs, including, but not limited to: (1) operation expenses determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles; (2) payments to the Republic or Panama in accordance with Paragraphs 4 (A) and 4 (B) of said Article XIII and in accordance with Paragraph 5 of Article III of said treaty; (3) any sums in excess of the depreciation and amortization that are earmarked for the replacement of capital, expansion, and improvements; (4) payments to the U.S. Treasury by virtue of Section 1603 of this law: (5) reimbursement to the U.S. Treasury for expenses incurred by other U.S. departments and agencies to provide education, health, and other services to the commission, its employees, and dependents, and other categories of people in accordance with Section 1321 of this law; and (6) whatever costs are incurred in the implementation of the treaty related to the maintenance and operation of the Panama Canal.

From this provision it is specifically established that the compensation of any surplus to Panama can only be paid after covering "all canal operation and maintenance costs." The same Section 1341 (3) lists the operation expenses, including: payments to Panama; depreciation; reimbursement for services rendered by other departments and agencies; and costs incurred in the treaty's implementation. This norm does not differentiate between "expenses" and "costs;" instead, it incorporates in the costs a series of costs and expenses. This incorporation of costs, and expenses in determining the compensation of the surplus is openly contrary to the formula of precise magnitudes which the treaty mentions in Paragraph 4 (C) of Article XIII.

Law 96-70 changes Paragraph 4 (C) of Article XIII of the treaty, which states that Panama will have the right to receive up to $10 million a year if there is a surplus after the canal operation expenses are deducted from the revenues received. The law for treaty's implementation issued by the United States includes as operational expenses, sums in excess of depreciation and amortization that are planned for the replacement of capital, expansion and improvements, and the educational costs and other public services for the U.S. community (employees and dependents). An annual expense of $19.5 million to amortize the retirement fund of former employees of the defunct Panama Canal Company is included in these expenses.

THE TREATY ACKNOWLEDGES THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA'S RIGHT TO COLLECT UP TO $10 MILLION FROM THE SURPLUS AS SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH 4 (C) OF ARTICLE XIII. THUS, IT IS IN THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF PANAMA TO DEMAND THAT THIS ASPECT OF THE TREATY BE COMPLIED WITH IN TEXT AND SPIRIT. In cases of loopholes and doubts, the two parties must jointly resolve any differences. It is unacceptable for U.S. legislation to be the sole valid criterion, even if we contradict the treaty on this. The treatment of costs as canal commission expenditures is not legitimate, mainly because in the end this decreases economic rights granted to the Republic of Panama by the treaty.

The final part of Paragraph 4 (C) of Article XIII indicates that should revenues "not yield enough surplus to cover such payment, the unpaid portion will be covered from operational surpluses in upcoming years, according to mutual agreement." In this regard, we must reiterate that the deliberate attempt of Law 96-70 to infringe on the treaty has reached an extreme because Section 1341 (B) of that law specifies that losses from any previous fiscal years should be accumulated against the excess of surplus of any given year. THE TREATY MENTIONS ONLY "SURPLUS BALANCES," BUT LAW 96-70 REFERS TO THE NOTION OF "ACCUMULATED LOSSES," AND THUS THIS LAW GOES TOO FAR BECAUSE IT ESTABLISHES RULES ON AN ASPECT NOT CONTEMPLATED IN THE TREATY. IT ALSO TRIES TO SHIFT DISCUSSION ON COMPENSATION PAYMENTS TO THE AREA OF THE COMMISSION'S ANNUAL FINANCIAL SITUATION, THAT IS, TO A DISCUSSION OF "LOSSES AND REVENUES."

Since 1979 the Panamanian Government has maintained that neither the "reservations" nor the "understanding" approved by the U.S. Senate upon ratification of the treaty eliminates full justification of payments to Panama based on surpluses; the treaty acknowledges this payment as part of "a just and fair retribution for the natural resources that Panama has dedicated to the efficient functioning, operation, maintenance, protection, and defense of the canal" (first portion of Paragraph 4 of Article XIII). Thus, given that the treaty, after acknowledging such payment out of the surplus, only states further that the unpaid portion from a given year should be paid out of surpluses from upcoming years, "according to mutual agreement," ANY DIFFERENCE THAT SHOULD APPEAR REGARDING DETERMINATION OF EXCESSES OR SURPLUSES MUST BE RESOLVED VIA COMMON AGREEMENT; THEREFORE, PANAMA CANNOT AGREE WITH THE SOLUTION UNILATERALLY SPECIFIED IN LAW 96-70, WHICH FLAGRANTLY VIOLATES THE TREATY. In 1979 President Arisitides Royo voiced his criticism on this issue. His successors, Presidents Ricardo de la Espriella and Dr Jorge Illueca, maintained this stand as well.

PANAMA MAINTAINS THAT CALCULATION OF THE SURPLUS BELONGING TO THE COUNTRY FROM THE OPERATION OF THE CANAL SHOULD BE BASED ON OPERATIONAL REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES DURING A GIVEN FISCAL YEAR. THIS MEANS THAT IN CALCULATING EACH SURPLUS NO LOSSES FROM A PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER. IN ADDITION, THE INCLUSION OF FIGURES ILLEGITIMATELY INCLUDED AS OPERATIONAL EXPENSES IN THE CALCULATION OF SUCH SURPLUSES MUST END.

B) THE TOLL ISSUE

The toll issue is another problem that must be defined. In this regard, Panama has been careful to avoid being seen by canal users as a promoter of a policy to increase tolls, because many users are Latin American countries that helped Panama during the treaty negotiations. In addition, Panama has not yet been able to determine the real worth of its revenues, that is, the direct benefits received for the administration of the canal, due to problems involving payments to the country. From an economic standpoint, for the time being Panama does not wish to strongly advocate an effort to increase tolls until it is certain that such an increase will result in greater direct benefits to Panama in the form of revenues.

THE PANAMANIAN REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CANAL COMMISSION BOARD OF DIRECTORS BELIEVE THAT THE BASIS FOR THE ESTIMATE IS WRONG BECAUSE: 1. CONTINGENT PAYMENTS RESULTING FROM JUSTIFIED CLAIMS TO THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT AND FROM PANAMA CANAL COMMISSION WORKERS ARE NOT INCLUDED AS ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES; AND, 2. EXPENDITURES NOT CHARGEABLE TO THE COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS OF THE PANAMA CANAL COMMISSION, SUCH AS COMMITMENTS OF THE DEFUNCT PANAMA CANAL COMPANY, ARE, ON THE OTHER HAND, INCLUDED.

In spite of this, it would be suitable that in the particular case of the 30 cents per ton that Panama receives for each ship that transits the canal, a case that is to be reviewed after having been in effect for 5 years, it would be convenient for Panama to make a technical analysis on this matter. In this regard the Panamanian Foreign Ministry has instructed the Department for the Implementation of the Treaties (DEPAT) to form a team, with support from ministries, such as that of planning and economic policy, to carry out an indisputable technical study. If necessary, DEPAT must hire a consulting firm, which would cost some money, but in the end would have a positive outcome in the form of income for Panama. WE HAVE TO BE FIRM IN INITIATING THIS STUDY ON THE 30 CENTS SINCE 4 CENTS MORE WOULD REPRESENT BETWEEN $3 AND $10 MILLION MORE FOR PANAMA'S TREASURY. WE MUST VIEW THIS IN THE LIGHT OF THE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY. THIS 30-CENT FEE WAS GOING TO BE ADJUSTED ACCORDING TO VARIATIONS IN THE COST OF U.S. WHOLESALE MANUFACTURE ENTERPRISES' IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The U.S. Government was almost able to control inflation from 1981 to 1984; this harmed the Panamanian Government because the hike in the fee past the 30-cent mark, which would have resulted from an automatic adjustment, was not implemented. In spite of Panama's analyses of the treaty on this subject, it has been unable to come out with a favorable interpretation. THEREFORE, THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT MUST IMMEDIATELY REVIEW THE 30-CENT ISSUE AND MAKE A PROPOSAL THAT would secure the support of the canal users, because there will be a toll increase anyhow, and an increase over the 30-cents-per-ton level would be the most direct type of revenue that Panama could receive. Article XIII, No 4, letter (a) of the 1977 Panama Canal Treaty clearly establishes that since Panama has put its natural resources at the disposal of the efficient functioning, managing, maintenance, protection, and defense of the Panama Canal, Panama will receive as payment from the Panama Canal Commission an annual amount to be paid with the revenue derived from the operation of the canal at the rate of 0.30 balboas [as received] or its equivalent, for each net ton that goes through the canal. This amount will be charged each ship that transits the canal.

BELIZE

FOREIGN MINISTER BARROW TRAVELS TO U.S., UK

PA210055 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2245 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, 18 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Belize's Foreign Affairs Minister Dean Barrow left today for the United States and the United Kingdom. In Washington, Barrow will meet with U.S. congressmen and State Department officials to discuss Belize's foreign policy and economic assistance to his country. A Foreign Ministry communique said that Barrow will continue efforts for the resumption of negotiations with Guatemala in New York. The communique added that in any talks Belize must participate as a "sovereign and independent nation," although he did not specify with whom he would meet in New York. Guatemala claims Belize, which became independent from the United Kingdom in 1981, as its own. According to the Foreign Ministry, Barrow will discuss the defense agreement with the United Kingdom and the possibility of expanding the economic aid program in London.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON RELATIONS WITH NICARAGUA

FL182118 Belize City SUNDAY TIMES in English 13 Jan 85 pp 1, 10

[Text] After the UDP government sent Ambassador Leslie to Managua last week on an official mission, they were telling the press they are not in sympathy with Nicaragua. The action has been described in political circles as "very undiplomatic."

Foreign Minister, Mr Dean Barrow told a press conference in Belize City Wednesday that he and the prime minister made the decision to send a representative to the official inauguration ceremonies of the president of Nicaragua. Belize was represented at the Managua ceremonies Thursday January 10 by Mr Robert Leslie, ambassador plenipotentiary and extraordinary.

Asked if the government was stepping up relations with Nicaragua, Foreign Minister Barrow said he was not sure what level of relations existed with Nicaragua. He said the government had received an invitation to the January 10 ceremonies and he and the prime minister felt Belize should be represented since the Sandinist government had given firm support to Belize's sovereignty and territorial integrity. He said that because "Guatemala would like to crack that support" Belize needs to maintain contacts with countries at both ends of the ideological spectrum, the government felt, he said, that it would be wrong to administer a snub to the Nicaraguans.

Minister Barrow said the government needs to be very careful as to the level of representation in Nicaragua. He said the Nicaraguan Government had expressed its preference for Belize to be represented by the prime minister or the foreign minister. "But we are not altogether in sympathy with Nicaragua," he added. He said this was the reason why the government had sent a civil servant.

Obviously worried about reaction at home to Belize's participation in the Nicaraguan presidential ceremonies, the minister expressed the hope that "the people will understand the political complexities."

COSTA RICA

GOVERNMENT, BANANA COMPANY REACH AGREEMENT

PA181811 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Excerpts] After lengthy negotiations, the government and the banana company have reached an agreement on the banana plantations in the southern part of the country. In this way, production and export of the fruit can now be resumed. Furthermore, the region's economic activity will soon return to normal, after begin seriously affected by the strike called last year by the communist unions. The government will initially lease 1,200 hectares of the banana company's land in the southern part of the country and will later buy those farms.

The negotiations culminated during a 5-hour meeting between Presidency Minister Danilo Jimenez Veiga and (Luis Gussetti), president of the United Fruit Company's Banana Division, in Miami. As part of the agreement reached, the transnational company has promised to buy the banana production from the south for the next 5 years, paying the import tax and $0.40 per box to help fight black sigatoka. Jimenez Veiga added that the lease price on the 1,200 hectares of land will be 15 percent of the sales price, which has been estimated at 50,000 colones per hectare.

The negotiation establishes that the government will (?receive) free of charge the electrical plant, the water supply systems, and other infrastructure needed for the region's activities. The banana company was initially charging 327,000 colones per hectare, but both sides agreed on a price of 50,000 colones per hectare. This means that the government must pay a total of 60 million colones for the 1,200 hactares of land and the infrastructure found there. In this way, the banana company makes a social contribution of 327 million colones for its use of that land for over 30 years,
said.

The agreement reached with the banana company must now be approved by Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez. The document (?on the) agreement sent by the United Fruit Company will be presented to the president and the fruit company must receive a response as soon as possible, the presidency minister indicated. He added, however, that certain details must still be worked out so that the National Association of Banana Growers can begin working on the farms to rehabilitate them and make them begin producing within a reasonable period of time.

In view of the agreement reached with the United Fruit Company, the government will undertake a number of actions intended to reactivate banana production. To this end, several commissions will be sent to the area charged with conducting topographic studies and compiling information about the land that the government will initially lease and then buy. The idea is to have the southern part of the country returned to normal as soon as possible, (?even though) the agreements reached with the United Fruit Company official in Miami (?have not yet been) implemented.

RADIO IMPACTO ON MANAGUA CORRESPONDENTS' SITUATION

PA212201 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Text] Since Saturday, the Sandinist security forces have surrounded the home of our acting correspondent in Managua, Mrs Vivette Ramirez de Calvo. Mrs Ramirez de Calvo, the wife of our correspondent in Managua, Dr Salomon Calvo Arrieta, has been temporarily acting as our correspondent there as a means of exerting pressure against the arbitrary detention of her husband.

Dr Calvo Arrieta was detained last 29 December and neither his whereabouts nor his physical condition is known. Despite the fact that a writ of habeas corpus has been filed, the judge appointed by the Nicaraguan court of justice has not yet taken any action nor has he allowed anyone to see Dr Calvo Arrieta.

Sandinist Justice Minister Tito Castillo himself was appointed to handle Dr Calvo Arrieta's case.

Sandinist security forces have surrounded Mrs Ramirez de Calvo's home since Saturday, and there is fear for her safety. Mrs Ramirez de Calvo is the mother of three children, the youngest of whom is only 4 months old.

Meanwhile, Radio Impacto's other correspondent in Managua, Luis Manuel Mora Sanchez, is hiding in a safe place in the wake of an official communique issued by the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry announcing that the Radio Impacto correspondents would not be allowed to report on developments in the country.

Calvo Arrieta's imprisonment and his wife and Mora Sanchez' difficult situation, result only from the fact that these individuals report Nicaraguan developments through Radio Impacto. This is their only crime: reporting the true situation in the neighboring country through a free and independent media.

EL SALVADOR

TENORIO HAILS VISIT BY FRENCH SENATE DELEGATION

PA230245 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 2130 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Excerpts] A delegation of senators from the France-Latin America Study and Friendship Group met with Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Tenorio today at the Foreign Ministry offices to learn about the political situation in El Salvador.

We asked Foreign Minister Tenorio for his views about the visit by the French senators, and he said:

[Begin recording] I wish to state to the Salvadoran people that this visit is very eloquent and speaks very highly of the democratization process in El Salvador. We must not forget that France and Mexico issued a declaration over 2 years ago, the famous French-Mexican declaration, in which they criticized the Salvadoran process. However, now that President Jose Napoleon Duarte's constitutional government is in power, we have received the visit of this delegation, which is composed of French senators representing a variety of political currents that range from traditional and conservative parties to the Socialist Party, and this delegation has issued a very optimistic and objective statement about the situation in El Salvador.

In my opinion, this statement provides us with a magnificent opportunity to disprove the misinformation that has so grievously hurt us abroad and obviously indicates that El Salvador's image is changing in Europe and in the whole world. [end recording]

2,000 TROOPS CARRY OUT 'GUAZAPA OPERATION'

PA190332 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 18 Jan 85 pp 2, 25

[Text] A new "Guazapa Operation" is under way in northern San Salvador Department. It also covers areas of Cuscatlan, Chalatenango, and Cabanas Departments. According to Armed Forces spokesmen, four extremists have already been killed in the operation.

The operation includes plans to clear the area of subversives operating in various areas of San Salvador, Cuscatlan, Cabanas, and part of Chalatenango Departments. Official reports indicate that the Army has the specific objectives of providing security to citizens and protecting their property, which is threatened by the FMLN-FDR terrorist groups. The Bracamonte Battalion and troops of the 1st Infantry Brigade are participating in this new "Guazapa Operation." They also have the necessary artillery and air support for their actions. The Northern Trunk Highway is being patrolled to guarantee the unhindered movement of collective, commercial, and private vehicles.

Meanwhile, the troops continue to advance on the area around Guazapa Hill and the towns of Suchitoto, Tenancingo, and San Jose Guayabal in Cuscatlan Department, Aguilares, and El Paisnal in San Salvador Department, and Cinquera in Cabanas Department. Some troops are also reinforcing the guard posts near substations and powerlines of the Cerron Grande and Chorrera del Guayabo hydroelectric dams.

Other units are combing rural areas of Santa Cruz Michapa, Ilobasco, Sensuntepeque, and all locations of strategic importance or where there are subversive camps. Initial reports indicate that approximately 2,000 troops are participating in this operation. An overall report is expected to be issued at the end of the operation.

ARMY TURNS OVER 52 PEASANTS TO RED CROSS

PA202106 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 19 Jan 85 pp 4, 15

[Text] Fifty-two peasants organized into production units and utilized by People's Revolutionary Army [ERP] terrorists in the Sesori rural area were turned over to the International Red Cross, IRC, by the Manuel Jose Arce Battalion. According to military spokesmen, the peasants were captured by this battalion, which is stationed in San Miguel. The peasants, who said they were forced to cooperate with the ERP bands, were released and permitted to return to their homes.

The peasants reported to Army members that they had been feeding subversives for several years and that the guerrillas threatened them with death if they refused to cooperate in their actions against the people. Military spokesmen said some of the peasants who were investigated turned out to be informers who reported to the terrorists on Army movements and actions. The spokesmen said that after verifying the peasants' innocence they were turned over to the IRC to be returned to their places of origin.

According to the Army, these peasants and illiterates were not responsible for any crimes and for this reason they were returned to their homes. The military spokesmen finally told the peasants to tell their neighbors that the Armed Forces will soon release them so that they can feel free and protected by the Armed Forces.

REBELS STAGE NEW ATTACKS, CLASH WITH ARMY

Usulutan Cotton Cooperative Hit

PA221550 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Report by Raul Beltran]

[Excerpt] Reports have stated that leftists attacked the installations of a cotton cooperative in Usulutan Department last night and at dawn today.

Initial military reports indicate that no casualties were sustained by the Army, but two leftist rebels were killed. However, during artillery fire on some of the installations of the cooperative a warehouse holding approximately 1,000 quintales of cotton was set on fire. Losses were estimated at approximately 1 million colones.

Meanwhile, officials of the cotton cooperative and members of its directorate in this capital are refusing to give details on the rebel attack on the installations of the cotton cooperative in Usulutan Department.

San Miguel Clash

PA230014 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Jan 85

[Report by Osiris Ramirez]

[Text] A clash, which took place Sunday afternoon in Chinameca jurisdiction, San Miguel Department, between the Arce Battalion and the ERP, resulted in the death of one extremist and injuries to several others.

Official sources reported that the clash, which lasted approximately 30 minutes, took place in Joya Ancha Arriba Canton in southern Chinameca. They added that the rebels sustained one dead and an undetermined number of wounded while the Arce Battalion sustained only one wounded.

As for transportation, our informants said that there have been no reports of sabotage against that activity in San Miguel jurisdiction, because the Air Force has been maintaining strict vigilance since it learned that the FMLN would attack vehicles.

Meanwhile, as for activity in northern San Salvador, we received reports stating that Salvadoran guerrilla forces damaged at least a dozen vehicles on various highways of the country during the past few hours as part of their new campaign to paralyze ground transportation.

Military sources reported that on Sunday night, guerrilla groups intercepted approximately 10 vehicles, both public transportation and private vehicles, on the Northern Trunk Highway, near (Guaicume) canton, between apopa and (Guajapa). The rebels fired shots at the vehicles' tires and painted FMLN-FDRs logans on some buses, according to military sources.

In the country's western area, the insurgents partially damaged three public vehicles on the highway between San Salvador and Santa Ana. Meanwhile, traffic in the eastern areas weas significantly decreased due to fear of rebel attacks.

The FMLN has been carrying out an operation against transportation since last Saturday 19 January which will continue, according to the rebels' official radio station.

Menwhile, military sources reported that rebel groups this morning attacked units guarding the Acelhuate bridge at km 30, but no casualties on either side were reported.

The insurgents blocked another stretch of that highway with tree trunks and rocks. The Army cleared them at 0600.

Sources from the mayor's office in Comalapa reported today that sporadic clashes took place between government forces and the FMLN in Llano Grande over the weekend. Reports on possible casualties have not yet been received. For its part, the Army intensified vigilance on all the country's highways especially in the eastern area during the past weekend. According to the military sources, this prevented guerrilla attacks against transportation. This is the second guerrilla operation against transportation thus far this year. The first one lasted from 7 to 14 January.

Meanwhile, we received reports stating that the Army is forcing ERP guerrillas to abandon the northern area of San Miguel and are pursuing them as they flee toward the country's coastline, an Arce Battalion officer assigned to that department told YSU.

According to reports, the extremists showed strong resistance in San Luis in La Reina, Ciudad Barrios, Nuevo Eden de San Juan, Chapeltique, and other towns. However, they are now being expelled from those places and are heading toward the department's southern area.

The Arce Battalion is pursuing the rebels in Chinameca Jucuapa, (Cerro El Tigre), and Lolotiquillo to protect traffic and the coffee harvest, the official sources added.

Radio Relay Station Attacked

PA221717 Paris AFP in English 1710 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] San Salvador, Jan 22 (AFP) -- Army troops and guerrillas from the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front clashed today in the eastern San Miguel region after the insurgents attacked a relay station of the Salvadoran National Radio, a military spokesman reported here.

The spokesman said both sides suffered fatalities, but declined to give more details. The attack on the relay station 150 km (90 miles) east of here was repelled by the Army with air support, the spokesman said. Witnesses from San Miguel said the AC-47 fighter recently delivered by the United States to the Salvadoran Air Force and two helicopters participated in the fighting which, they said, lasted for several hours.

PARTY COALITION SEEKS ELECTION POSTPONEMENT

PA202016 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 19 Jan 85 pp 5, 48

[Text] The coalition of parties formed by the Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party [PAISA], the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA], and the National Conciliation Party [PCN] asked the Central Electoral Council [CCE] yesterday to set a new date for elections.

PCN leader Hugo Roberto Carrillo Corletto went to the CCE and explained to the council members that due to the situation created by two unconstitutionality suits filed concerning publications of the Electoral Law in the official gazette, more time is needed in order to have greater legal certainty about the process.

The text of the document he delivered making this petition states:

San Salvador, 17 January 1985
Messrs Members of the Central Electoral Council
On behalf of PAISA, ARENA, and the PCN, we have addressed you to state the following:

1. As you know, two unconstitutionality suits are being handled by the Supreme Court now with regard to the Electoral Law sent for publication by the president of the Republic and another sent for publication by the president of the Legislative Assembly.

2. In view of this the citizens, as well as the parties, are awaiting a Supreme Court ruling.

3. These circumstances make the clarity of the procedures to be followed normally by the electoral process more complicated.

4. Therefore, we feel it is advisable to wait until these two suits being reviewed by the Supreme Court are resolved.

Consequently, we ask you to move the 17 March elections to a later date which you consider more advisable. We feel that the reasons stated for this change justify such a measure.

[Signed] Dr Roberto Escobar Garcia
Major Roberto D'Aubuisson Arrieta
Raul Molina Martinez

Meanwhile, CCE members said that they will analyze this petition submitted by ARENA, PAISA, and the PCN immediately in order to make a decision on the postponement of the elections.

FMLN CHALLENGES COPREFA TO EXCHANGE MESSAGES

PA191721 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] We wish to publicly challenge the pro-Duarte Army. We wish to challenge the Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa], Colonel Mendez, and Colonel Maravilla. We would like to see the debate of ideas between us taken to the communications media so that both our combatants and the Army's troops can hear the different view and reach their own conclusions. We propose the following: Prepare a 2-hour long program addressed to the FMLN combatants, and we will transmit it through our Radio Venceremos. We, in turn, will prepare a 1-hour message which they would air on national network, thus enabling the soldiers to hear our message freely. We are making this challenge publicly, and we expect some response from either Col Mendez or Coprefa. In any event, the political debate will continue in Morazan. The troops will confront our men, our weapons, and our ideas.

For us this would be no novelty, because our combatants usually listen to the national and international newscasts, in particular to the Coprefa communiques, as they help us bolster our convictions and ideas, and because it is interesting to see how those who have neither victories nor cause to raise their troops' morale lie. We reiterate our challenge: Let us exchange radio messages.

We invite and encourage our brothers in the Army to listen to Radio Venceremos. We know they already do so clandestinely, because the high command has forbidden the troops to listen to Radio Venceremos in order to keep the soldiers from learning about our country's real political and military situation.

GUATEMALA

MEJIA VICTORES ON CABINET, PLANES FOR AIR FORCE

PA190338 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 18 Jan 85 p 4

[Report by Carlos Garcia Correa]

[Excerpt] Playa Grande, Uspantan, Quiche -- Regarding the request for the resignation of Economy Minister Leonel Hernandez Cardona, Head of State General Oscar Mejia Victores said that Hernandez will not be removed. Moreover, he added, I have already confirmed him in his post.

Gen Mejia Victores stated that he has already confirmed the entire cabinet and said that there is such a short time left until the end of his government that he cannot change ministers.

Mejia Victores also reported that new airplanes, including Fokker aircraft, are being acquired for the Air Force. He did not specify the number of aircraft that will be obtained, but he said tha the number will meet the Air Force's needs. Gen Mejia Victores today inaugurated the Playa Grande bridge, a project which was begun and completed by his government in 8 months.

HONDURAS

PDCH SEEKS FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF MISSING

PA191956 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 18 Jan 85 p 2

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- The Honduran Christian Democratic Party (PDCH) yesterday defined its stance on the Armed Forces' 29 December 1984 report on missing persons. The PDCH states:

1. The PDCH has repeatedly rejected state terrorism as a means of fighting terrorism of any other kind.

2. It maintains that any terrorist action, whatever its origin, must be punished in exemplary fashion, in accordance with the appropriate legal forms and procedures.

3. It censures and opposes any action or practice involving the forceful and violent detention of individuals, as this infringes on and violates the guarantees included in Articles 59, 61, 65, and 84 of the Constitution, which establish respect for the individual, the inviolability of life, individual safety, respect for physical, psychological, and moral integrity and which establish that no one should be subjected to tortures or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment or treatment or be arrested or detained except by virtue of some written mandate from the appropriate authority, extended in accordance with the legal formalities and for reasons previously established by law.

4. The PDCH, along with the general public, feels that the Armed Forces' report is both incomplete and superficial. Its lack of seriousness suggests that the commission appointed to conduct the investigation did not duly fulfill its responsibilities in the face of a collective problem which, as the Armed Forces themselves acknowledge, "touches on extremely delicate sectors and issues," a statement which by itself indicates that the results of this investigation are incompatible with the clamor for justice by many relatives of the missing persons and the national conscience.

5. It is unprecedented that a commission of well-known military hierarchy should have ignored all of the following: the report presented by the Committee of Relatives of Missing Detainees in Honduras, Cofadeh; the statements by Major Juan Blas Salazar while serving as national director of investigations in connection with detained and missing people that, due to their obvious contradictions, deserved to be thoroughly investigated; the statement by former Presidency Minister Carlos Flores Facusse with which the public is familiar, which accused and indicted General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez as the person directly responsible for the missing persons; and a report on the participation of paramilitary groups in this country, denounced by several high-ranking military chiefs of the Honduran Army, as THE MIAMI HERALD asserts in its edition of 16 January 1985.

6. The PDCH asks the Honduran Armed Forces to reopen the investigation and to include in the special investigative commission members of Cofadeh, the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights, the National Congress, the Supreme Court of Justice, the Honor Tribunal of the Association of Honduran Lawyers, and the legally recognized political parties of Honduras.

This should be done so that whatever steps are deemed necessary can be taken within some definite time frame in order to clear up completely the crimes and be able to pinpoint the culprits, those responsible for plotting the crimes and accessories after the fact, so they may be turned over to the justice tribunals and the weight of the law can be applied against them.

7. The PDCH will continue to express its very militant solidarity with the members of Cofadeh in their just, humanitarian, and Christian struggle to find their loved ones. It also urges the Honduran people to maintain a vigilant and firm stance before the established authorities so that democracy, freedom, and justice can prevail in Honduras.

To political power through popular power,

[Signed] PDCH

NICARAGUA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES BILL GRANTING AMNESTY

PA230310 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Excerpts] This afternoon the National Constituent Assembly approved, in its first regular session, the law granting amnesty to all Nicaraguans who are involved in counter-revolutionary activities. From the 22 January Heroes and Martyrs Assembly headquarters, our fellow worker Miriam Palacios expands on this information.

[Begin recording] From the 22 January Martyrs building we inform you that the National Assembly has approved the bill granting amnesty to all Nicaraguans who are presently involved in counterrevolutionary activities, including those who are armed who give themselves up and surrender their weapons to the appropriate authorities. This is part of the first bill submitted to the National Assembly by President Daniel Ortega.

Article 3 of the law states that the Nicaraguan citizens who carry out their counterrevolutionary activities in Honduras and Costa Rica must, in order to obtain the benefits of this law, surrender their weapons to the authorities designated by the Honduran and Costa Rican Governments.

There was opposition from the conservative assembly bloc, which said that the Governments of Honduras and Costa Rica cannot be involved or participate in this mechanism. [end recording]

FDN Rejects Amnesty

PA230057 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0037 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 22 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- The rebel Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) today rejected the amnesty proposed by the Nicaraguan Government to insurgents who are fighting to overthrow it.

According to a document released to the press under the signature of Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, principal leader of the FDN, the Sandinist proposal lacks credibility and value.

"At the present time hundreds of Nicaraguans are fleeing from the land under Sandinist control across remote border points leading to Costa Rica and Honduras," said the FDN.

The guerrilla organization also censored the imposition of a compulsory military service in Nicaragua, the incarceration of those who disagree with the Sandinist system, the violation of the right of asylum, and the bombardment of peasant towns in northern Nicaragua.

DIALOGUE WITH BROOKLYN RIVERA ENDS IN FAILURE

Rivera Reiterates Conditions

PA191330 Paris AFP in Spanish 0140 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] San Jose, 18 Jan (AFP) -- Miskito leader Brooklyn Rivera charged today that dozens of Indians "are currently dying from hunger and cold" in the Nicaraguan Atlantic mountains. Rivera reiterated that the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Sandinist Unity [Misurasata] organization will not attend the meeting with representatives of the Sandinist government scheduled for tomorrow in Bogota.

Rivera accused the Sandinist government of "developing a propaganda campaign" in relation to the dialogue with the Miskitos and insisted that Misurasata will resume the talks "once the suffering of our brothers abates."

The Miskito leader said that some 5,000 Indians fled to the mountains on 6 January when the Sandinist Army launched an offensive in northern and southern sections of Zelaya Department.

Rivera added that since that time some 600 heavily armed Sandinist soldiers have "occupied" at least 10 abandoned Miskito communities in the Prinzapolka, Wawa, and Rio Grande sectors.

"The Indians do not want to return until the Sandinists leave, because they know 'their tricks,' and know that there will be arrests, disappearances, and murders, as in other similar cases," Rivera stressed.

Within this context, Rivera said: "The meeting in Bogota cannot be held, and therefore we have asked the Sandinists to set a new date."

Nonetheless, in a message sent today at noon to Commander Luis Carrion, the Sandinist government's representative to the talks with Misurasata, Rivera warned that setting a new date "will necessarily entail a positive evolution of the painful situation" faced by the Miskitos.

In this respect, Rivera admitted that "the bombings and attacks have stopped" this week.

However, he insisted that the Indian population should be free to return to their communities before the negotiations between the Misurasata and the Sandinists, which began some 2 months ago, can continue.

Carrion Rejects Conditions

PA191717 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrion Cruz stated yesterday that one of the topics to be discussed [with Miskito leader Brooklyn Rivera] concerns ending hostilities. Carrion made that statement when leaving for Bogota, Colombia, as head of a Nicaraguan delegation which is holding talks with Brooklyn Rivera. Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrion Cruz reaffirmed the revolutionary government's commitment to comply with the terms agreed to during the previous round of talks in December.

[Begin recording] [Carrion] Brooklyn Rivera did not confirm whether he would be attending the Bogota meeting which, according to a communique issued on 9 December 1984, is scheduled for tomorrow. Since no other date was mutually agreed on, the government decided to send a delegation to Colombia in the hope that Mr Rivera will meet his commitments.

[Reporter] If Mr Rivera does not attend the meeting, what stance will the government take?

[Carrion] Well, the Nicaraguan Government will always maintain its commitment to continue the talks begun in December of last year. [end recording]

As for Brooklyn Rivera's recent statement outlining his conditions and refusing to attend the Bogota meeting, Commander Carrion, FSLN National Directorate member, said:

[Begin recording] The clashes are in fact one of the topics that must be settled through negotiations. Mr Rivera had wanted to make his participation in the talks contingent on an end to the Nicaraguan Government's military actions currently under way against counterrevolutionary groups along the Atlantic Coast. This kind of condition is inconsistent with the nature and spirit of the talks. For that reason the Nicaraguan Government rejects them outright.

We believe that the talks must continue within the spirit in which they began. The military situation also concerns the government. In fact that is one of the main reasons for our participation in the talks. We want to find a solution to the hostilities. [end recording]

Rivera Fails To Attend Meeting

PA230240 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 22 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] "The Nicaraguan Government has kept open its doors to continue the process of talks, and to continue seeking through negotiation the achievement of peace in the country's Atlantic region."

This statement was made by Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrion, first deputy interior minister, upon returning yesterday from Bogota where he was scheduled to meet with Brooklyn Rivera of the Misurasata, who did not attend the meeting which was agreed upon last 9 December.

"The fact that the Nicaraguan Government was there, Carrion commented, upon being welcomed by Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge, and Vice President Sergio Ramirez, demonstrates Nicaragua's desire to continue the talks initiated last year."

"We do not want to think, the member of the National Directorate of the FSLN added, that Mr Rivera's absence, his failure to fulfill the agreement made on 9 December, means that the talks have been broken off."

Finally, Commander Carrion said: "Just as we are struggling to achieve peace through diplomatic means, through peace talks, with the same decision and firmness we will continue to defend with arms in hand, Nicaragua's sovereignty and the Nicaraguan people's revolution."

Misurasata Expels Rivera

PA220100 Paris AFP in Spanish 0026 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] San Jose, 21 Jan (AFP) -- The organization of Nicaraguan Miskito Indians, the Misurasata, today expelled its leader, Brooklyn Rivera, a 32-year-old former math teacher, and denied all authority for any negotiation he might conduct with the Sandinist government.

In an official statement signed here by Joaquin Suazo, Guillermo Espinoza, and Rafael Zelaya, Misurasata "repudiated and denied all authority for any negotiations with the Sandinist Front and the Nicaraguan Government," and "took away all of the representativity" of Rivera.

The new Misurasata leaders accused Rivera of negotiating with the Sandinists "behind the backs of our allies and our indigenous communities, without the express authorization and recommendation of our Council of Elders, and without consulting with the leaders of the organization."

Meanwhile, sources close to Rivera indicated that the leader left Monday for the United States to discuss with Sandinist government envoys the resumption of a dialogue that was to have been held last weekend, but which failed to materialize when a meeting slated for Bogota was not held.

Suazo and his companions also announced that under their leadership Misurasata, "will maintain, respect, and fight within our alliance with the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [ARDE], led by Eden Pastora, alongside our brothers who are fighting in the north" of Nicaragua.

Misurasata was seriously split in 1981 when Steadman Fagoth organized Misura (Miskitos, Sumus, and Ramas), which fights allied with the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN).

However, when Rivera's expulsion was announced today, the new leaders of Misurasata dismissed the possibility that something similar might happen, asserting that Rivera "does not have the support of the communities, the leaders, or the Council of Elders."

Expulsion Called Maneuver

PA231230 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Excerpt] The expulsion of Brooklyn Rivera from the Misurasata has been seen here as a publicity maneuver by the counterrevolutionaries led by Steadman Fagoth to detract from the organization's credibility in its negotiations with the government in Managua. This statement was made by Hazel Lau, founder of the Indian organization, who added that Rivera's expulsion is a maneuver to disrupt the dialogue for a peaceful solution with the Nicaraguan Government.

Lau said that the supposed Misurasata leaders Joaquin Suazo, Guillermo Espinoza, and Rafael Zelaya belonged to the Somozist security forces and are faithful servants of Fagoth, leader of Misura, and the so-called Nicaraguan Democratic Force.

Hazel Lau, who represents Misurasata in the talks with the government, said that the individuals mentioned do not represent the Indian communities on the Atlantic coast and are serving as instruments of the U.S. warmongering policy of aggression against Nicaragua. Referring to Brooklyn Rivera, she said he has the support of the Miskito communities to represent them in the talks between Misurasata and the government to find a peaceful solution to the Atlantic coast conflict.

GODOY SEES NATIONAL DIALOGUE AS SOLE ALTERNATIVE

PA230400 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Jan 85 pp 1, 12

[Text] With the suspension of the Manzanillo talks, the Contadora Group sifting water, and the understanding that Brooklyn Rivera is a failure, the only solution open to the present government is to strengthen the national dialogue, said Virgilio Godoy, president of the Independent Liberal Party (PLI).

Therefore, said Godoy, it is necessary to reestablish the national dialogue, for which the agenda for basic discussions must be restructured to correspond to the proposals listed in the document of basic agreements for national dialogue. Godoy emphasized that Nicaragua's problems must be solved by the Nicaraguan people and not by decisions made beyond its borders.

The talks with counterrevolutionary groups, including that of Brooklyn Rivera, have failed. The negotiations of the Contadora Group have been weakened, and now the suspension of the talks in Manzanillo has left the Sandinist government with just one alternative, that is, to reestablish the national dialogue. Therefore, it is necessary that the government support the national dialogue that is being promoted by the majority of the Nicaraguan political parties. Godoy explained that the national dialogue has a function that is different from the activity of the National Assembly.

The National Constituent Assembly is to discuss political and legal matters and the national dialogue is to smooth out the differences among all the political parties in spite of their ideologies.

We do not want the juggernaut of the past that does not correspond to the demands of the country in the coming years. It is necessary to establish the bases for a democratization of the country. Pope Paul II's offer is welcome, as are the statements made by the new Brazilian President-elect Tancredo Neves, urging peace for Nicaragua.

COSTA RICAN PAPER ALLEGES BORGE, SCHMIDT COUP PLOT

PA231407 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] According to a report by newspaper LA NACION of Costa Rica, which was revealed in Nicaragua, a plot hatched by Commander Tomas Borge to topple Daniel Ortega 2 months ago was uncovered in time and resulted in Commander Enrique Schmidt's death. This report was revealed this week in Nicaragua in the wake of Daniel Ortega's inauguration.

For the time begin, the Ortega brothers, who are the current leaders, will leave Tomas Borge untouched. However, they plan to strengthen their power and decrease Tomas Borge's power within the popular forces until he loses it completely.

According to sources close to the Sandinist government, it is very difficult to try Borge because internal tensions would be created within the Armed Forces to the extent that a situation favoring a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua much like the one in Grenada could be created.

Henceforth, each action and movement of Tomas Borge and all his friends will be examined by security forces. The widespread talk in Nicaragua is that there are reasons to try the interior minister, but the Ortegas fear what could happen should the only surviving FSLN founder be charged with treason.

According to the newspaper LA NACION of Costa Rica, the plot was uncovered in the wake of the death of Enrique Schmidt, minister of telecommunications and postal services, who was also subcommander of the Security Ministry. He died on 15 October 1984 [date as heard] in the vicinity of Boaco.

According to the report, Schmidt was the sole victim of an armed attack against Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, troops in which 70 rebels were killed. On that occasion, the FDN did not issue any confirmation of a clash against the Sandinists. It seems that Commander Schmidt was the only Sandinist killed in that lopsided clash.

BARRICADA, the Nicaraguan Government newspaper, made a strange comment on 6 November 1984 when it reported on the painful loss of the subcommander at 1400 after the enemy had been destroyed. This report caught the people's attention because it stated that he fell when the clash was over. Questions on who actually killed him circulated.

The latest reports received from Nicaraguan sources stated that Schmidt was killed by a government agent and that the Ortega brothers issued an order to that effect. They stated that Schmidt was a personal friend of Commander Tomas Borge and that the real story began 2 days after the elections on 2 November [date as heard] when Tomas Borge and Schmidt met in the garden of Borge's home, which contained microphones place there by order of Daniel Ortega.

During that meeting, Borge asked his companero to contact soldiers loyal to him to find out whether they would be willing to topple the Ortegas. Apparently, the argument used by Borge to convince his loyal companero was that the Ortegas were betraying the revolution by using soft tactics with the United States and this was not quite what had been planned for Nicaragua.

It is believed that Enrique Schmidt accepted the task with some reservation and that his fear was well-justified because the meeting was being observed by a Security Ministry agent controlled by Cubans loyal to Ortega. From then on, Enrique Schmidt was closely observed and assassinated by a security agent 2 days later after he had proposed a plan to soldiers of the Pablo Ubedo Brigade near Boaco.

The coup d'etat was a failure from the start, but it claimed one victim, namely Commander Schmidt. It is not known how he appeared on the battlefront and was strangely enough the only who fell from the ranks.

According to newspaper LA NACION of Costa Rica, many believe that the next victim will be Tomas Borge himself. He was already rebuffed by being refused permission to present a posthumous medal to Enrique Schmidt, while the Ortegas will secretly present a medal to the one who killed the commander.

Everything seems to indicate that Tomas Borge's power has come to an end in Nicaragua and that the Ortega Saavedras are responsible for that. LA NACION is assured that Tomas Borge's plot to topple Daniel Ortega 2 months ago was uncovered in time and resulted in Commander Schmidt's death as was revealed in Nicaragua and reported by LA NACION of Costa Rica.

PRT, PUCA SEEK ROLE IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PA191730 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 17 Jan 85 p 2

[Letter from Bonifacio Miranda, of the Revolutionary Workers Party, to President Daniel Ortega Saavedra and Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez Tellez, president of the National Assembly; dated 14 January]

[Text] Managua, 14 January
President and Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra
Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez Tellez, president of the National Assembly

Dear Commanders: For the first time in Nicaragua's history, and in spite of military attacks and the boycott and abstention campaigns promoted by U.S. imperialism, the electoral process has culminated successfully. Our people have elected a National Constituent Assembly and a government that has the political trust of most of the population.

In the recent elections the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT) was the victim of bureaucratic mechanisms and obstacles that virtually prevented the party's participation, in spite of the fact that we have always been opposed to abstentionism. This has resulted in a situation that excludes the PRT and the Central American Unionist Party [PUCA], from the debates to begin in the near future in the National Constituent Assembly.

The National Assembly will discuss and prepare the constitution that will establish what type of socio-economic system and government will exist in Nicaragua. For this reason the PRT, in an effort to contribute to turning the National Assembly into a great forum of democratic debates, formally asks you and the new revolutionary government to grant us the right to participate as permanent observers and the right to take the floor in the National Assembly.

Our request is based on our party's firm anti-imperialist position, on our political decision to participate in the past elections, and especially on the inaugural speech of Commander Daniel Ortega on 10 January.

Our request to participate as permanent observers with the right to have the floor does not in any way affect the sovereign nature of the National Assembly. On the contrary, it could be an excellent opportunity for incorporating parties such as the PRT and the PUCA, which defend our revolution, into the discussions of the constitution.

Fraternally,

[Signed] Bonifacio Miranda. House H-19, Ciudad Jardin

CASTRO DELIVERS SPEECH AT ECONOMIC MEETING

FL170348 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0130 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at a party meeting on economic efficiency, held at Havana's Palace of Conventions on 15 January -- recorded]

[Text] Comrades: As Manolo Ortega said, and he said it very well: I am going to say a few brief words. I believe that in recent days, I have spoken quite a bit, and I have given quite a lot of work to the newspapers and television, to the party members, to the students, to the study groups, [laughter] to the party nucleus, and I do not want to give them more work, especially in the middle of January, when we have to intensify our efforts to put into practice everything we have agreed upon.

This activity concerning economic efficiency units, of the budgeted units, seems to me to have great importance. I recall well that since we agreed upon a system of management and planning of the economy, I was always very concerned about the idea of setting up control mechanisms and mechanisms for efficiency in productive activities, which was very important. Nevertheless there were hardly any mechanisms that could provide control and efficiency in savings and budgeted activities. And I thought, we can be successful in this economic effort, which is related to productive activities and all that we earn or save on the one hand, we waste, we turn around and squander on budgeted activities. It is for that reason and in appreciation of the result of the national meeting on productive activities, which took place last year, that I proposed, following the same criteria, that a meeting be organized to deal with budgeted activities, to analyze, consider, and study what we were doing, how we were doing it, and what problems we were having, and how we could overcome them. It is for that reason that this meeting is taking place.

It has been important since that time, but if we take into account the enormous effort, or should I say the revolution, that has taken place in the last 2 months, and especially during the month of December regarding our concepts of how we should work, in what way, in what direction, in regard to the economy, then this meeting becomes even more important because it has been held at the opportune time.

That is, this meeting has taken place at the most opportune time. There was an enormous advance during the year 1984 in the area of defense. During the year 1985, we must continue to consolidate this advance. But at the same time, we must put in practice everything we have agreed upon.

Of course, the best fruits of these ideas and of these agreements will be seen in 1986, especially in things related to the preparation of the budget. Many of these fruits could be attained this year if we completed everything in the area of controlling expenses, and overcame many of the problems that were identified there.

And certainly there is a series of points of reference that have been placed along the way in this process. Very important. I, unfortunately, was not able to be present, as I would like to have been, for all of this national meeting because of a series of obligations during the past few days. Therefore, I asked Comrade Machadito [Jose Ramon Machado Ventura] to make the concluding speech. I promised him that I would say a few words. They have already sent me some materials and they also sent me some yesterday about the discussions that went on in the committees.

I propose to reread shortly the papers I have seen and to read the ones I have not seen. That is, although I think the reports or recommendations as you call them -- I call them reports -- deal with things we have to put into practice.

I intend to read them and study them well because at first glance, what can we do with such a large quantity of material? There is a large quantity of interesting and important things. Many of them seem repititous on controls -- the problems of diet, for example, appears in almost all areas, in education, in health, in sports, in culture. The lack of norms for spending, uniform norms, also comes out in almost all the discussions. Carelessness or deficiencies with equipment in repairs, and so on, and problems related to expenses for materials, of payrolls and contracts also are mentioned.

For instance, the well-known Saturday, when we exchange one day for another. Supposedly we had made advances, by saving transportation and resources, and it really should be that way. But, apparently many people believe in and many managers permit a system where one Saturday is free and the next one almost free. We know that the party made a study of the free Saturdays and visited many places, production and service centers, and studied how many people were unjustifiably absent. In this way they could analyze how many justified absences there were, which were really justified, without overlooking the number and percent of absences. There was a great variety of causes for the absences but there were also those that were working.

When they studied their data, much of it did not have any content, many were doing something else, or talking about that problem. It was an interesting study. It was done in a part of Havana in the production and services sector.

We cannot allow this type of thing. It is a matter of morals, of revolutionary dignity, of discipline, and the basic concept of meeting our responsibilities.

It is clear that if this was done on a Thursday there would not be such a high absence rate, but there would be low productivity, loss of time, and many other problems which are in no way related to free Saturdays, but have to do with method, concept, custom, and practice; which I have been thinking about and which must be dealt with more effectively.

As I said at the end of the National Assembly of People's Government [ANPP] meeting, although the main stress was on conserving fuels and raw materials, I also mentioned the problem of human resources. I said it was not very urgent, that the other problem had priority -- matters of investment, priorities, and all that we were going to do in this area, which could be put immediately into practice. But, this area of human resources was a matter of years. We had to do it, we did not want to leave anyone without a job. It is not a matter that as of now we go in a precipitated way to find anyone left over in any place, because I believe that many people could be found. We are not interested in doing that. I want to do this over a period of time, to optimize, rationalize, and use human resources in the proper manner.

You comrades and organs have made several studies and have come out with some conclusions. For example, there was a large amount of data, supposedly useful and necessary data, but that was hardly ever used, and when it was going to be used, it could not be found. The data was looked for throughout a building and could not be found, even though there were a number of people involved in this activity.

I am convinced that we underutilize human resources, we waste them, and this is a basic resource. This is what produces the riches in the country and performs all the services within it. This resource is perhaps more important than money. It is more important than materials, because without work there isn't any money, or materials, or production, or anything.

We have wasted this resource a little. In a certain way this influence came about when the revolution triumphed because there were large numbers of unemployed in the country, hundreds of thousands; it was a great pressure. I remember in the beginning there was great pressure from the people for employment. Until there came a time when there was a shortage of people in many activities.

Although there was a lack of workers due to a good measure to workers not being used in the right way. We had made an error by using incorrect methods, which we have studied on other occasions. For example, the same pay was given to a laborer who carried 2 tons as the one who carried 10. There were always many workers, but not a maximum effort under that salary system. Many carried more than 10 tons because of dignity or prestige, but it just takes a small group, even a minority, who are not motivated by that same interest, enthusiasm, or sense of responsibility, and the result was that there were not enough men to load and unload the ships. In the same way, there were not enough tractors to prepare all the land which needed tractors. There were not enough trucks or truck drivers. This brought about large expenses.

The necessary men were assigned to ports, and tractors, trucks, and so on. This was added to a sugarcane productivity increase which, by the way, was the only area where this form of pay was not applied. There, payment was based on amount of arrobas cut. But with mechanization, a better organization and a considerable reduction of the labor force used in harvest activities become a reality.

For example, if in 1970, 350,000 sugarcane cutters were needed -- this is how many were needed any year for a 6 million-ton harvest -- and Camaguey alone needed 70,000 or 80,000 cutters, if I recall correctly, when it was a province before it became an administrative political organization. Tens of thousands of workers from the entire country had to go to Camaguey. From Havana's industries, students, soldiers from the Labor Youth army...[sentence incomplete] They are getting to the point now that province can take care of the harvest with its own resources. In other words, a reduction from 350,000 to less than 80,000 has been effected. It has almost been reduced, because I say 80,000 but it is a little less. The amount of sugarcane cutters used in the harvest has been reduced by almost 20 percent.

The mechanization level and productivity attained in that activity is less than 80,000 for the 8-million-ton sugar harvest.

This had freed almost 270,000 cane cutters. The living and working conditions of those doing that task had to be improved. Those recording the highest productivity were used, giving them a higher income, because later there appeared the branch coefficient [coeficiente ramal] in the sugar industry, which we created because, logically, that production has a very important place in the country. These areas were the ones which gave us the most headaches.

All that in the past was easy, because it organized itself without our providing transportation, shelter, dining rooms, because the cane cutters used to take their lunch bag consisting of a piece of bread and guava. They carried room temperature water, it was not cold. They did not have special shoes to cut cane which protected them from accidents, or special clothing, which we have provided in the past few years. At that time none of that existed.

Now, imagine dining rooms for 350,000 cane cutters as well as transportation, clothing, and boots for 350,000, and of much better quality. It freed, as I said, around 270,000 cane cutters who are working in other areas of agriculture, construction, or industry. That even made it possible for us to agree to a very old demand of the sugarcane workers, which is the creation of the fourth brigade or shift, because when the harvest began they had no time for rest. They did not have Saturdays nor Sundays off either, and the harvest lasted longer. It began in November and ended in May.

That meant using more workers in industries. We did something, we saved workers from here and eased the working conditions of the sugar industry workers. There were 10,000 or 12,000, I do not remember the exact amount, a great amount. A fourth brigade or shift means a fourth more workers. The number of management workers who worked during the day need not be increased much.

But they were doing good, in other words, they were facilitating the rest for all cane workers which they did not have during the harvest.

The work force was increased in that way, the agroindustrial complexes were created, and a larger work force was available. Everything possible was done to attain stability in the sugar industry. We are trying to have workers capable of working all year long on one or another machine, making repairs, in construction. The capitalism principle is not applied, that is when the harvest finishes, 60 or 40 percent of the workers are laid off. Some of the workers are under contract, but it is a percentage which does not affect the stability of the work force.

When this occurs, when this is worked out like this, the importance of the industry is taken into consideration by making a good evaluation of that force, because it can be improved, can improve its evaluation. Something useful is being done. That work force is not wasted. It is a different problem than the one I was referring to when I was talking about the waste of human resources.

There are also other activities which appear to be wastefulness and are not so. Let me give you some examples in educational activities. At one point it appeared we had the right amount of teachers. I told the ministry: Now you should create a reserve of teachers. The objective of that reserve of teachers was not to have more teachers than needed, not to reduce the work teachers were doing; it had another objective. It was to allow the possibility of improving teachers. When the new primary and secondary schools were built, even at a time coinciding with the demographic explosion when the number of school-age children increased extraordinarily, it was necessary to utilize other workers as teachers.

This was due to delays in the training of teachers because of some too rigid and dogmatic ideas we had. It was my idea, faced with the problem of the first years of the revolution when there were 10,000 unemployed teachers, we could not get teachers to go to the mountains and countryside. We had to train teachers in the countryside and mountains. We made an effort in that direction. At the beginning, virtually thousands began training and thousands graduated. We had two schools, the one in Minas del Frio part of the time, and the one which today is the City of Pioneers. Of course, before they were smaller but thousands were studying there.

Of course, before it was smaller but there were thousands of students. It took us a while to achieve the necessary pace; we could not satisfy the needs of education. It was impossible. It became necessary to give up that idea, apparently good, which in reality could not solve the problem. When we realized that, we decided to create the schools for primary schoolteachers in practically every province.

Many times it happens that something is solved one way. However, no matter how good the intentions, it is not the adequate way and there are others available. At the beginning, our situation with the youth was not the same as 8 or 10 years later. The awareness, the political level as well as the educational level of the youth, had improved. During the first few years, there were not many sixth grade graduates. Then we went through the phase when the graduates from pre-university schools were few. There was a year, I cannot remember if it was in 1962 or 1963, when the graduates from pre-university schools totaled 1,500, perhaps less than 1,000 in a year.

In reality, as a result of initial efforts, the literacy drive, classrooms, and others continued to produce changes in our youth. The source for selecting youths to send to teacher training schools was growing. We applied the formula of schools per province -- it was not a case of just schools for the Republic's capital, not one or another extreme. Thus, we were able to solve the problem of the teachers.

But by 1970, only 30 percent of the professors had degrees, and 70 percent were plain citizens who volunteered to teach because they had a high level of education, or because they were students, or workers, or members of mass organizations, or members of the Federation of Cuban Women, or members of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution. Every year we used to recruit students for teacher training schools. They were taught education methodology, in a short training course, and after that they began teaching.

Only 30 percent of all professors had degrees. We continued to advance and now we have reached the level of 100 percent of primary schoolteachers having degrees. At the secondary school level, not all professors have degrees. We continue to train teachers.

Of those who began teaching in the primary schools following the triumph of the revolution and until very recently, many had a sixth grade education and they trained for 5 years. I believe it was 5 years training as teachers. It was a very low level of education of very young people. As soon as we were able -- thanks to the great number of schools, hundreds of basic secondary schools that we built -- we selected the teachers from ninth grade students. The level of education was raised by 3 years.

We had to improve those teachers through different means. The Education Ministry has developed great plans for teachers. I believe no where in the world are there programs for teachers as ambitious as the ones we have in Cuba. That is a certainty. Improvement courses for some who finished sixth grade, other courses for others, improvement courses for those without degrees... [rephrases] Many of those teachers having degrees today were among those who entered the field of education voluntarily, or those who attended courses in education methodology and later continued to study.

The same effort was made with secondary-level professors. The pedagogic detachment was made up of ninth-grade students. As soon as we were able to do it, we replaced them with pre-university students, the 12th grade. Those replaced by the 12th graders continued to be trained by attending university courses over a period of years -- we have attended many graduations of part-time students -- and they returned to teaching after getting a certificate. After that, they had to study 2 more years. Many times I ran into the same students twice, in two graduations. When they finished training as teachers, and later on after completing other studies, they graduated. All three types of teachers would come together, those who entered from ninth grade, those who had graduated and entered from ninth grade, and those who entered from pre-university school. Those graduations included three categories.

In my judgment, the most important thing, the most spectacular thing about this, is the creation of the bachelor's degree for primary education, and the opportunities given to the teachers to improve themselves.

Among other things, this program allows for 2 years of study and work, and those who pass the fourth year, because there are 6 years, they are able to study the fifth and sixth year without working. They can then dedicate full time to their studies. There are thousands and thousands who are doing this. I understand that this year the first group will be graduating with masters degrees in primary education. This is a colossal jump for our country that 15 years ago had 70 percent of the certified teachers only graduating from primary school. They had gone from sixth grade to schools for teachers. Today, all primary schoolteachers have degrees and we are starting to graduate the first ones with master's degrees. And, not only that, but in the course of 15 years, maybe slightly more, all primary schoolteachers have had degrees in primary school education. Calculate for yourselves the level of knowledge that can be attained by these teachers through hard study.

It really is wonderful, but why are we able to do this? Because, we began to do this with the reserves of teachers. We were not going to let happen what happened to the capitalists when there was a surplus of teachers.

From one moment to another enrollment would decrease and school buildings were empty. These buildings must be used as they are used at present. We must now use these buildings, as they are now being used, to further train teachers.

But, it was necessary to have a reserve. If we had not had a reserve, we could not have sent 2,000 teachers to Nicaragua, when they asked us to. I was recently talking about this with a delegation that was visiting us, about the topic of teachers in Nicaragua. And, as I told the Nicaraguans, when did we ever oppose this, about other countries sending teachers? Did we want to have a monopoly of foreign teachers in Nicaragua, out of a sense of pride, vanity, or vainglory? No, it was because no one was sending teachers. Really no one could send teachers, because they did not have any teachers to send. It is unlikely that nations which do not send teachers to their own people, to their own countryside and mountainous areas can send teachers to another country. Only a country that had already fulfilled its own obligation, that had already sent teachers to every corner, could do this. Not only could we send teachers everywhere, but trained teachers with a different type of consciousness. We could send teachers to Nicaragua, Angola, or any other country. Only a country that was able to provide teachers for its own people could do this.

The others were not able to do it. But, among the teachers that they did have, they could have sent certified teachers, with some experience, as were our teachers. How many could they have sent? They could not send them to Managua, to live in a costly hotel, but to the mountains. To places where you had to travel by cart for 3 days, and by boat. To live with a family, even if the family lived in a single room with domesticated animals in the house. To eat what the family ate. We even wanted to help teachers, out of fear that they would have health problems. This was impossible because of the quantities of milk and food which would be needed. We found out that that was not the solution to the problems, and we should have known this. What teacher -- in a house with five children and the children cannot drink milk for whatever reasons -- would drink milk in that house? It is inconceivable that one of our teachers would do this, he would immediately distribute the food.

But, I was mentioning some other countries. How many teachers could these send? I remember that when we asked for volunteers, 29,000 volunteered to go. And, when the first teachers were assassinated, I remember that at the last Cuban Union of Young Communist [UJC] meeting, I received the signatures of nearly 100,000 teachers who had volunteered. We had as many as we needed, above all was the spirit of our teachers.

This goes to show once again that a teacher who is able to go to the mountains does not have to study in the mountains. It is more of a question of conscience. Our party was able to educate these youths with a revolutionary and internationalist conciousness. Our teachers not only go to Baracoa now, but to Angola and to the most isolated mountains in Nicaragua, anywhere. It was good to have that reserve of teachers.

Another problem arises also in some areas, such as in physics, chemistry, and mathematics, which are basic sciences. Our people and youths greatly enjoy music. That is very good, but they do not like physics, chemistry, or mathematics, at least they have not shown that they do, and several requests have been made. We have seen students enter the majors of music, literature, and history, which we do not scorn or anything, especially literature and history, but we cannot live just by literature or history without engineers and technicians, who are so badly needed for a modern industry. We cannot develop the country's economy without them. The majors of physics, chemistry, and mathematics are not easy, and are not just needed in industry but in medicine and biochemistry. We need this. Students need to know chemistry, physics, and mathematics.

I know several imminent scientists who studied medicine and who said that physics had greatly helped them, especially in the study of basic sciences.

It is very important that someone be able to develop art and other things, and not... [rephrases] We had that old problem. We must have professors of physics, chemistry, and mathmatics.

The Ministry of Education (?picked) 2,500 teachers, who had graduated, and gave them the chance to study these subjects.

The ministry told them: It is your job to study any of these subjects in university. In that way, the reserve of teachers increased by 5,000. There were teachers already there, recently graduated. The reserve made it possible to send teachers to Nicaragua, send teachers to Angola, send teachers to train as professors in important subjects. The reserve is even good for that.

It does not bother me if the budget increases because we have increased our teacher reserve by 2,500 or 3,000. This is reflected in the quality of education. They are never a surplus. They are not wasting time. This is one example of the useful utilization of human resources. There are those who are wasting time by doing nothing. But a teacher has to study very hard, for 8, 10, or 12 hours every day. He is doing something very useful, very valuable. In just a few years, this will make our country an educational superpower; that is really being a superpower. These are people who would go to Nicaragua, or anywhere and do anything if asked to. They go to the Sahara. They go there to train the people of Western Sahara; there are Cuban teachers there. They speak Spanish.

If they are told to go to other countries, they study the language, be it French, English, or any other language. There are crash language courses. I do not mean that our teachers with bachelor's degrees in primary education are able to teach in only Spanish-speaking countries. They can do it in other countries too, it is not impossible. Teachers with great background knowledge, 6 years of training, are capable of going anywhere. Can we ask for more?

In reality, are there many having this type of teacher? No, this is a very special situation. That is not wasted money, or anything like it. Those human resources are not poorly used, but used in the best way possible. We will also have the same situation with physicians sometime in the future.

As soon as we have a certain number of physicians, I believe it will be somewhere around 65,000, perhaps we will need 10,000 more to give them an opportunity to train, to take refresher courses after 7 years of work. We take into consideration that this is a science that is rapidly developing, extremely rapidly. We transform that group, those human resources into better quality. That type of increase in the health sector does not bother us. Besides, we need the improvement because at times we are asked to supply 200, 500, or 800 physicians. There have been times when we have had to supply them and had to ask the rest of the physicians to work harder.

That is nothing. It is a demonstration of the plans, it does not mean we are bogged down, but rather we have improved in quality. We are going to graduate, it is necessary to repeat it, I tell many visitors...[sentence incomplete] All eyes are directed toward us. We had 6,000 and now we have 20,500. That has been the result of 15 years; 20,500. Well, let me tell you that in the next 15 years we will have 50,000. That figure astonished many people. They hear about the community doctor, the family doctor, the doctor in the school, the doctor in the factory. They ask: How many physicians per inhabitant? Last year we had 250 or so. That was in 1983, in 1983 we had one for every 486 inhabitants. In 1985 -- 2,400 or 2,500 graduate, which are important figures -- there will be one for every 445 [inhabitants].

The numbers mean nothing, it is the concept. In reality, it does not mean anything, because it does not tell what type of medical care is provided. Each of our citizens amounts to three citizens, because the citizen has a doctor in the factory for any kind of problem.

He has a doctor right there, the worker feels safer. If that worker is at home, his family is at home, they also have the doctor there. But this is not a doctor they have to visit to receive attention, the doctor comes to the house. If it is a problem of depression, of diabetes, or a cardiac nature, then the doctor knows he has to go see him. They get accustomed to this service. This is totally new in medical care. It is new, nothing like this exists any where else; it is totally new.

It is something like a health guardian. All families everywhere have welcomed the service. Youngsters admire the services they receive. In recent days we invited the WHO director to visit Cuba, and he talked with the doctors. He was really impressed by the doctors' qualifications, their work. This is something that was of great concern to families, the increasingly growing distance between the doctor and the citizen.

Many people in CEMA member countries have shown great interest and have asked Cuba to chair all activities dealing with medical services in the community.

The WHO has shown great interest. There is relatively little experience in this area, and there are more than 230 young doctors. There will be 500 doctors studying this specialty next year, but there are now doctors in the mountainous regions, almost 30 doctors in one area. We must see what happens, because the situation is not the same. If a person lives in a place which requires him to travel 4 hours and so many kilometers to reach a clinic then that doctor has a different set of functions, because a clinic around here might be 10 blocks away. Urgent cases can be resolved there as far as prescribing medicine is concerned. There is nothing like that in some places. Supposedly, the person who lives in a mountainous area must then go to the clinic for a checkup. There was nothing else to do. That is why we have had such great pressures on this. [as heard]

With a minimum of 140, they cannot (?build) a clinic, a miracle has occurred. [as heard] They may give him an injection, but at least the doctor is there, and this greatly increases the sense of security.

There are now doctors in cooperatives, schools, and in the factories, because that is the concept. The citizen should receive care wherever he may be. If the person is at a camping area, he should have a doctor there. If he is at a hotel taking a vacation, he should have a doctor there too. If he is on a boat or ship traveling to Japan, he will then have someone there who knows about medicine. That is to say, our citizens can count on a doctor, because this has to be multiplied. [as heard] Children are at schools, doctors are then needed there too. Or, the child is at home, where a doctor is also needed. Wherever the citizen happens to be, then a doctor is needed at that place. The thing is not to have some 250 or 300 doctors, but to have those who study medicine ready to care for the citizens, to preserve and look after the citizens health, wherever the person may be.

That is really a very revolutionary concept, which can only happen in a socialist country. I am sure that the socialist countries will apply this, because they want to apply it.

A government in a capitalist country to apply this concept [word indistinct], but not because of that. I know cases of industrialized countries where the minister [in government] only several months in office, after proposing several small reforms, has already created egoism and tremendous competition among the doctors. This should not happen. Our doctors also go anywhere. It's not that these 3,000 or 21,500 go, against 3,000 or 6,000, but that there is also a tremendous change in the quality of the doctors. We see excellent possibilities in this, if we have a reserve of 10,000 doctors in the year 2002, or 2003, or perhaps before. I am talking about 50,000 doctors, and these figures are very conservative.

Some 5,000 students might enroll but they are superior students. The group reflects a better selection of students, more disciplined, with a greater effort put into their training with higher expectations held for them, and taking more rigorous exams without the problem of books, and the result is that quality has increased, in spite of more rigorous exams. There is now greater dedication in preparing students at the pre-universities and finding out about their expectations, and the problems they might find when they enter one of these fields. It is a very large leap. The logical outcome is that quality will increase. All this has been calculated, using somewhat conservative figures, and quality has ensued.

Before, 1,000 students would enroll and 500 would graduate. We had 4,000 medical students, and 2,000 graduated. It was a natural selection. We must make this selection before this stage to see if the students have the vocation, experience, attitude, and quality. If we create a program of this type, and I repeat, with a reserve of doctors in order for the other ones to study, our economic and human resources will not be badly invested, which is excellent.

We are now going to do what I said about using human resources in a useful, rational, and optimum way. Right now we have the reverse of this. Many of those who were in the program, perhaps half of those doctors, are women. They go to work in those places with one nurse. When we have 40,000 persons working in that activity, 30,000 will be women. We are not taking them away from mining or the merchant marines, but from the work force. What we should be doing is increasing the number of working women, to participate in production and services, because we have a real force in the women -- not in Havana, but in other provinces. A force which we should be training, except for a greater proportion of women in this activity. [as heard]

Another interesting fact is that 60 percent of university students are women. Women now hold first place in the country's technical force, a sector which includes a large number of nurses, teachers, and all of those types of work. This is a good use of human and budget resources, but this takes time. The people will have to be transferred.

I said on the 29th, at the ANPP meeting, that instead of having some man or woman doing nothing, it would be better if that person was doing something in the community, working for the health of the population as a doctor, but that is not achieved from one day to another. One does not go and take someone out of an office or some other activities where he is superfluous and send him out to be a doctor.

The problem is a little more urgent in the capital, where it has been shown that we lack strength. I am sure we would not lack it if we rationalized resources. After this project, perhaps, we should not begin with Granma Province, although it should not be permitted the luxury of remaining indifferent to the problem.

But logically, in the capital of the Republic, it is more necessary because there are activities which are affected by the lack of personnel -- all the construction projects and many others. Also in the capital of the Republic, for example, the defense requirements are greater. And resources in that area -- more work, more service -- will be noticeable, human resources...[sentence incomplete]

It is necessary to rationalize, of course, first, and to optimize, the use of human resources, to conserve them. This understood, it is necessary to dig in and stop that problem from continuing. This is an old problem, of course, and as we have said, we came from being a country with high unemployment, in which only the sugar harvest was organized and people had to run here and there to work. All this brought problems, because the factories where management knew that they had to mobilize volunteers for the sugar harvest and for other purposes and tried to guarantee themselves extra personnel. They would say: I need 10 plus 20 percent.

The other one would say: Because I have so many women working and so many problems, I need 10 and some extra in view of health problems. Children are also subjected to discrimination.

For example, the factory administrator tells a woman: I need a man for this job. It is necessary to struggle with this problem. There is freedom to enter into contractual agreements; there can be freedom to make contracts but what cannot be free is the consciousness of a revolutionary cadre, of a party member or an administrator. I know that although there is freedom to make contracts, other circumstances being equal, the administrator does not have the moral freedom to say: I prefer a man just because he is a man.

Besides the institution of laws, the role of the party must be considered, as the conscience of society. The struggle for all of this...[sentence incomplete]

The people were seeking a prescription. This also helped, the underutilization of human resources. [as heard] It was a reserve that was being conserved. When the micro-brigades came into being, this reserve was discovered. Immediately micro-brigade members appeared. This, along with plus-work [one-worker is pulled out of a job to work on a special project and the remaining workers do his regular work for him]... [rephrases] Yes, I know of industries that have done it with plus-work and they built like crazy.

They have been awarded the status of Socialist Vanguard in metallurgy. But many rationalized very little and they created their brigades. Others rationalized a little and did not use plus-work. The ones who did practice plus-work were those of the brigade. I recall that they worked 10 hours or 12 with plus-work.

This situation influenced other managers but it also exerted an influence on superficiality, the lack of controls, the lack of economic awareness, the absence of an economic system to assist the controls -- all this was influenced. Our spirit of solidarity with the others also exerted influence. But it is necessary to make good use [of resources].

One should not practice solidarity with something that is bad, which affects society and affects the country's economy. Our duty is to practice solidarity to help others so that by so doing, we are helping the country and society. Anything else is giving money away as charity. If I need 5 and ask for 10, what purpose is it for? Whom does it benefit? It is like charity and it gives rise to wrongdoing because those five are going to work less.

It is counter-productive. There has also been some of that. The reduction of productivity has been common. It is a substantial fact throughout the revolution.

During the capitalist period the canecutters and the cart drivers, and all those people got up every morning and worked 12, 14, or even 15 hours. After the revolution, they could not work under these unrealistic conditions. With the liberation and the triumph of the revolution, the first thing the people wanted to do was to rid themselves of the terrible...[sentence incomplete] The economists said that this was not appropriate. They said productivity and work levels in a less developed country mean that it could have the same budget or work schedule as a developed capitalist country.

Well, this is understood. It is very difficult. The people who are victorious have their own victory but they do not yet have knowledge. It is idealistic, it is an illusion to believe that a people can win one day and take power and that the people will have consciousness the same day.

It would be a wonder if we could have had the knowledge and the experience then that we have today. But we have not wasted these 26 years. This is a very different people with much more knowledge, who can understand many more things than the people before the revolution. I do not believe there is a revolution anywhere in the world that wins a victory one day and maintains the conditions that existed under capitalism.

Also if the revolution does its duty, it must teach the children because they are the future. When a revolution such as the one in Cuba occurs, suddenly no one has to pay for schooling, it is free. No one has to pay for hospitals. Medical care is assured. Money begins to have a lower value because over there [in the United States] everything is money.

In Nicaragua I talked about the value of the peso compared to the dollar. In Madrid, a dollar probably has more value than a peso, because the peso has no purchasing power. In Cuba, the peso has much more purchasing power than the dollar in New York. I cited the example of the bus fares, there perhaps you can buy two fares, here 20 fares. Many others can be cited, as the square meter in rents, how many dollars do you need for one square meter? or 50 square meters? It is perhaps $6 per square meter, how much money do you need for 50 square meters? If one is a member of a micro-brigade with the 6 percent, chief of the group, I do not know, perhaps 15 pesos for the square meter.

In that case our peso is worth 20 times more than the dollar. If one goes to a stadium, how does the peso compare to the dollar? The peso is infinitely more valuable than the dollar, because it is not needed to enter the stadium and in New York it costs $10, or $15 to enter a stadium. If one goes to Hermanos Ameijeiras [hospital] can you imagine an Hermanos Ameijeiras in New York for surgery, or eye surgery, to solve an important problem? We have many hospitals here, but I am citing this one which is known internationally. How does the peso compare to the dollar in this case?

If one goes to the university, a student on scholarship in the United States, a 1-year scholarship could cost $6,000, $7,000 or $8,000. To tell the truth in many cases the children receive free milk and everything in Cuba. What a child buys in essential nourishment with a peso, cannot be purchased in New York with a dollar.

In other words, the purchasing power of money grows so much here that it becomes infinite. Education does not cost. Money becomes so powerful that it becomes inefficient. In simple words, many vital problems are solved here. I remember that in the old days, the peasant families used to have three hens, or four, and one pig as a reserve. Those were the things he would sell when there was a need for medicine or a doctor's appointment. He would abstain from eating that. Because of that, all these things would make their way to the market.

The agrarian reform was enacted, no rent payments needed, or the hospital, or other things, now the peasant eats all three hens. [laughter] The pig does not get to the market. These are realities. That is the revolution. Are we going to let someone die because he or she has no money? Or in the case of a problem to save that person's eyesight because if we have to send him or her to another country, it would probably cost 10,000 pesos. Are we going to let that person go blind? Can you imagine a revolution that would let that happen? It would go against all principles of a revolution. I am certain of that.

We are correct in education, health, and other things. The same is the case with the agrarian reform, including the reduction of rents. This was a great battle, and the people joined us, a nation which did not want to hear about socialism. What is wrong with that?

That was bad, because it was what one could read in the DIARIO DE LA MARINA. MUNDO [old Cuban newspapers prior to revolution] press, radio, television, movie theaters every day. They were crazy.

I used to say if socialism agrees that the agrarian reform, rent law, electricity tariff -- we reduced it -- are correct... [sentence imcomplete] The electricity tariff used to stimulate consumption. Now it is linear. In the old days those who used 50 kw had to pay a lot, and everything above the 50 kw was still more expensive, the expense was stimulated. You understood what I said, did you not? The more you used, the more you paid. If you did not understand it, you could not explain it.

We enacted those measures then, laws needed by the people to struggle against their historic exploiters. The people's struggle against foreign exploitation; the people's struggle against the corporation, against humiliation, against lack of protection. For the first time in history, the people agreed to struggle. That is why revolutions are so strong. The state, government, everything is at the service of the people, of the oppressed, of the poor. I have always said that the revolution is very strong. It cannot fail. If things are done the way they should be done, the revolutions are invincible. But if they make 10 million mistakes and do not correct them -- mistakes can be made so long as they are corrected as rapidly as possible -- what is bad is making them and not correcting them.

For that reason, the revolutions are tremendously strong, they break all chains. The chains can be broken, but the consciousness is not forged. It is very difficult, it takes steps. At the time not much thought was given to the economy. The revolutions know how to end exploitation, dictatorship which is a tool of exploitation, and then struggle and survive.

I said that money began to have a value for the people. Even that, those who worked 14 hours because the son was dying, or that he might die because of lack of medicines. A cart driver would say: I am starving, but if I die, what would my retirement be? How much was the pension of a cart driver? I knew many at the time the revolution triumphed that used to get 6 pesos a month, can that be called a pension? It was a retirement out of this world, it was sending him away from earth, can you imagine 6 pesos? We found many pensions amounting to 6 pesos. These were increased to 60. The people saved some money. This was a tremendous encouragement for people to work. Money ceased to be a necessity for many reasons. To work so many hours has to be a necessity. To work so many hours ceased to be a necessity so that the person could survive.

Capitalism has always functioned with its little reserve, or big reserve. We observe that each one of them does, the capitalists, industrialists, invent here or there, but capitalism cannot work without the reserve. It could not work without that pressure, without those needs, without that total dependence on salary for everything. That exploiting system forces people to work. It is not only the police who force, but a number of strong pressures.

So, it needs that reserve to compete, so that the people be disciplined, so that they may appreciate work. But there is no competition, there is a job here, there, or anywhere. Another element for stability that disappears. But those are the problems of socialism, it influences in one way or another.

These are situations we have to overcome. Needless to say, we are socialists. This is always the case. [He asks someone to approach and continues talking] We have enjoyed the first years but it is also possible in recent times, especially these times.

Also, that heritage brings the heritage, the new situation, and other factors. It provokes a total economic carelessness. I talked about this at the National Assembly.

I need so many of schools, or so many other things. I am going to repeat this so you will not think I am against schools, 10, 15, 20 million more, whatever. I need aqueducts, sewers, streets repaired, sidewalks, lights... People say they need more, to send money. How can this be? Around 500 years without sewers, that had to be solved. The people's government was elected there. The elected district delegate reports but he is also forced to report. Look at this hole! The hole is not right, but there is no sewer there. He goes to the Assembly and the Assembly requests -- is there a need? Yes.

I am reviewing the expense records of community services. It is amazing. Between 1981 and 1983 -- you saw them also, didn't you? Did you not notice by any chance I read it very fast so I do not know if I am mistaken -- but I think it said they grew at a 25 percent annual rate. What a rate! I ask myself if the economy grew at that rate. The community expenses, all the holes, all the streets, all the sewers are there, pressuring for more money. Bring more money because I am going to solve this problem. I am a faithful servant of the community which has elected me and has made me responsible.

I am not against that. No, let him fight for his community to the end. He can try to solve all the problems in one way or another. But I want him to understand that if he does not get everything he asked for just because he asked for it... [sentence incomplete] Until now, what has happened? Everyone asked and all will continue to do it. Money, here it goes. And a budget was made, it was believed the budget controlled a little. When there was no budget and after the budget, it was almost the same. The only thing we did not know was how much was spent. We did not know it before. The budget was established during that phase and it was a great thing. We knew how much each spent.

But that did not have an impact on saving what was being spent because he kept asking for more, and he kept receiving. The budget was no restriction. Maybe a little, a little shame, embarassment, look it is a lot of money. The budget may have had a little influence. But the old mentality I explained continued.

There was a divorce between what I need and what I produce. No one may ask for just anything. As I said, how much did the sugar production increase? And such exports? How many more resources? Because you cannot invest what you do not have.

I have already explained this enough, what were the factors. I already explained the miracle, the miracle of doing that. The miracle of Alladin's lamp, do you not understand? Do you know what Alladin's lamp is? [laughter] Everyone knows. It is a little lamp that you ask for everything, without limits.

That metality was a reality among our cadres and everybody. We should be aware of that. It needs to be overcome as part of a phase. I consider it as something which passed. I consider it passed because I am sure you and we and all of us are going to apply this policy that has been proposed. The only wise, intelligence, revolutionary thing which can be done.

You have discussed many ideas and proposals. I think it is right. We have to continue deepening. We have to apply all these criteria. I already explained how 650 million had been requested above what had been spent. There is a foreign press report which figured the growth above the approved budget.

In reality, if we compare the proposal to what was spent, it was 650 million over what was spent in 1984, above the 1984 approved budget. What was spent was more than what was approved. It was 650 over what was approved. So the analysis of the revolution, we have already explained, amounted to 240.

When the presidents of the people's government came here and saw this plan which had been elaborated, they were surprised. They believed, as perhaps many people did, that they could not even fill one more hole with the amount of resources they had, after already filling up a lot of holes with what they were spending. This means that nothing was taken away from them that was already spent in 1984, and 240 million more was given to all of them. Of course this expense is unavoidable if we are to graduate 2,400 doctors in September, this will give us some 5 million more per year, not in 3 months -- perhaps around 1 million in one month, but not all at once.

If some teachers graduate, some activities must necessarily grow, some 240 million more is extraordinary. Already there was so much spending that if nothing more was given them, nothing would be resolved. They continued resolving many problems because they were already being resolved. If the expense grew by 25 percent, nobody was telling them that they would then receive 20 percent less, but it was maintained and there was an increase if this was necessary. I am sure that by 1986 we can do much better. Now we start to get more out of the work, much more. The economic plan will be much better because some things are already predetermined and set. With conscious care, as I said, we will begin to get more work out of the people, but we must put more into it. So that if they are 10 workers, this number must not be increased to 11. And, if there is a change in the work status and there could be a savings on the personnel list, we must then save. Nobody will be dismissed, but there will be a type of movement. As I have said, everyone appreciates not having unemployment. Everyone knows that if he is not employed in one area he will be in another. Therefore, a certain movement, which is not good, because an excessive movement of personnel does not help the economy. When I expect a personnel list, I will reduce it. [as heard]

We must give more study to this because we can invent many things. I invented some, but not all of them. Of course there have been many inventors, I am mainly making note of the errors, but there were many inventors.

I do not know where the philosophy of suppressing multi-work came from, it is a genious invention. I have not seen it under capitalism, or in the works of Marx, Lenin, or Engels, or anywhere. That must have come from some new philosopher. Maybe we should make a study of where it came from as well as the idea to sustain it. I don't know. Maybe unemployment was behind this. Maybe the person who did the study found so much unemployment that no labor union wanted a multi-work idea. Maybe multi-work completely failed under capitalistic conditions. I am not saying that it did, I am simply speculating.

Now try to imagine the work content. That is the problem. How can one fit each job with its content in a exact mathematical manner? Not even Capablanco playing chess could do that. [laughter]

Several things have happened to me on various occasions, such as the great battle. I don't know if I have told that one publicly, but in private I have told that story many times, at parties. It's about the new hospital in Cienfuegos. I visited it when it was under construction, almost completed, and being inaugurated. There must be a comrade out there, because later they brought him to the director and we discussed the personnel list in a gentlemanly and amicable manner. I have discussed the problem of the rational use of resources for 26 years now, and the personnel lists were inflated.

This has been discussed everywhere. They [the workers] would say that Machadito has been helping me a little on this problem recently, for example, at the pioneers city, or at such and such a school or such and such a worksite. He also has alot to do with many activities such as secretary of various groups and mass organizations which take up a lot of time. I have always been convinced that this is bad, because our human resources do not call for this. What must be done is invent things which will lead to the correct and useful utilization of these human resources. The other side of this brings about vices of all kinds, such as over spending, people not carrying about economic matters, not budgeting, working less, disparaging people, and talking too much, this is in certain areas.

It is more difficult to do this in certain areas. I have seen workers at the Antillean Steelworks and other places working under those conditions. The machinest working with machines and the wall builder next to his plaster, with machines everywhere, and here this is very difficult to do. But, there are other activities which are not of that type, and they are the ones which run more risk of these things happening. The lathe does not allow this to happen, but the typewriter can, perfectly well, without any catastrophy happening. It could even mean a material savings. [Castro and audience laugh] If I take into account the amount of paper.

To continue, in that eternal battle I asked, both the director and I made a solemn promise, better said he made it, because I just believed in the promise, of 900 workers, (?600) beds, a large hospital, very efficient, and built in a rationalized manner. It is not like the Calixto Garcia with one building here and another one over there, but is a monolith-like hospital in block style.

Some time went by, and I said, well, let's go see the hospital, to see how it turned out. I asked how many workers the Cienfuegos hospital had, 2 years had passed by then, and they told me that the Cienfuegos hospital was large, and that it had some 1,200 workers. I said that was a betrayal. [laughter] What has the Cienfuegos hospital done to me? That is not right.

They wanted to bring the comrade out, who they liked a lot. No, I said, I oppose that change. We must see what has taken place there. I then went to the state committee -- or what is the name of your ministry, they changed the name, it is now called the state committee of labor and social security -- we changed the name, they said. It is not a bad ministry and it does have a competent director. But, what happened? You have spent many years, at least several years.

At least several years training specialists, efficiency experts -- when I hear about an efficiency expert school I say, how wonderful. And I say, they may be the ones to save us, the ones to help us find out what a factory, a hospital needs. Then I say, choose the better skilled and more competent ones and send them to Cienfuegos. Let's see what happened with that hospital that [words indistinct]. And with great enthusiasm the efficiency experts went there. They worked, I do not know if it was for a week, 10 or 15 days. They studied each thing, each window, each square meter, each mosaic, what the kitchen had, everything that had to be done there. It is the most complete and comprehensive efficiency project ever done. I was waiting anxiously [laughter] and hopeful [laughter] for the results of that project. I contacted the minister of labor and asked him for the results. No, guess what? They need more workers. [Castro and audience laugh] We have to increase the payroll. That was the conclusion of all the specialists. When the Hermanos Ameijeiras was going to be inaugurated, I was wondering, what the Hermanos Ameijeiras payroll was. It was enormous, I do not know how much. That was during the time of the efficiency project. I said even the Hermanos Ameijeiras will benefit from this magnificent efficiency project we are going to do there.

Since the first thing they asked for was 3,000 or I do not how much, well, it would not be the work of efficiency experts and I said this is it, and later we will send the efficiency experts [Castro chuckles] to say. [Castro and audience laugh] course, I did not ask for their cooperation. [Castro and audience laugh]

Now we need the cooperation of philosophers. Any time we will have to ask the philosophy faculty to make a selection within the party, the party school, of the most brilliant professors, so they can explain this to us in the light of Marxism-Leninism. [Castro and audience laugh] In reality, we have to search. I believe that among many other things the non-existence of multi-tasks results in multiplicity. [as heard -- presumably refers to lack of workers with multi-occupational skills] When there are so many different jobs, we do not use one worker who could perform three different tasks, even paying him more. It is worthwhile to associate multi-tasks with more pay. A coefficient for multi-tasks, a high branch coefficient [coeficiente ramal] to reward that man who is going to help us save resources. If he does a good job there, he helps us make the factory or the hospital more efficient. It also helps us make the experts from the ministry of labor more efficient [Castro and audience laugh] and have fewer positions because when we increase efficiency there will be a surplus of positions. Maybe we will send them to take a course so they will learn more. It is possible we have invented things which will have an effect on those people. [Castro makes a clapping sound] Yes, sir. But it is also a pace...because if over a period of time, you have had more than you need.... [sentence incomplete] The intensity of the pace of work at the textile mill is set by the machine, the spinning machine, in many activities, but there are areas where work is not done. We could have gotten used to a much slower pace.

Maybe what I am going to say will not be welcome but some other genious must have invented the morning and afternoon snacks. [laughter] Brilliant! He did not take into account the elevators, stairs, the enormous multitude. Because all that is expensive, do not think only the human resource is used up, or economic resources. If we have twice as many workers we need twice as much transportation, and twice as much food at the workers' cafeterias, larger dining rooms, any way you look at it, it is really expensive. But the snack story is known by everyone. I am not proposing anything, I am just trying to create a little awareness on this. A lot has been talked about but it has never been said [as heard]. We do not want to take anything away from anyone. It is not the intention of the revolution to bring extremes. Maybe on that, the efficiency experts cannot help us but maybe dieticians and doctors could be saying that is bad for your health. How many times are you going to eat in a day? They tell me, it is because they do not eat breakfast, that is why they take the morning snack. Well, why don't they take it before they start work? That is an idea.

But really, breakfast, snack, lunch, snack, dinner is too much for your health. I am telling you sincerely. [laughter] And for esthetics...incredible. Well, it is not the cost of the snacks. It has nothing to do with that, if there is more bread or less bread. It would be good to save resources and to save health as well. It would be very good. It is not the cost. And another thing. Everything gets disorganized. It is necessary to stop everything. We all do it. In the National Assembly, when we are meeting, after 2 hours, a recess. I agree, there is tension. Everyone takes a break and there is disorder. But someone invented the snack break. We should look for a historian to find out the first time and place and who was the first person who invented the break, in order to verify historically his contribution to Marxism-Leninsm and to the socialist revolution. [laughter]

All this is reality and in the measure that we are capable of meditating and discussing these topics, I believe we have made great advances. I believe that you and the members of the party from the grass-roots level have been analyzing everything because you better than anyone can see this reality, to guard it and to struggle for it.

To struggle for the country and the revolution is to struggle against irresponsibility, against superficiality, against waste, against things that inhibit the future of our society and of our people, things that assault our honor as revolutionaries.

One cannot be a revolutionary and be indifferent to all this. This can be explained by a diverse body of factors which has been contributing to all this and we should struggle each time we become aware of a problem and we will feel better. We will feel more satisfied. We will feel prouder of our revolution because we will know that we have accomplished it because we believe in mankind.

The capitalists have a blind faith in selfishness, in competition, in the struggle to the death, in the law of the jungle; socialism is based on confidence in man, in his moral capacity, in his spirit of solidarity, in his great potential virtue. It has been demonstrated that this is so, that it is worthwhile to have faith in man, by the things that our people have done.

It has been said: Go anywhere to see if capitalism produces teachers like our teachers. [Words indistinct] the admiration of everyone. Ask yourself if capitalism could produce those teachers, that spirit. And those doctors, I say doctors. And those construction workers, engineers and technicians. And those soldiers that our country has produced by the hundreds of thousands. We could say by the millions. Go and look for them there in any capitalist society in Latin America. If you want to measure a society, measure it by them. If you believe that socialism is oppression, examine it by examining them. Let them come and look at these so-called oppressed people under socialism, and at what they are capable of doing.

With all that gloomy history that they want to tell about socialism and communism, what does one society produce and what does the other produce? Ok, let's measure. We will write down the numbers. Let them measure our society against any other system that man has created. It can be demonstrated that the law of the jungle does not produce these virtues. The law of the jungle does not produce these doctors, teachers and soldiers. It does not produce these tens of thousands of vanguards, who are not just the ones who do things outside, they go to Moa, Cienfuegos. They are the ones who, if there is a goal to be met, suspend their vacations, suspend their Saturdays and Sundays, and suspend everything. They work 10, 12, or 14 hours a day, when it is necessary. When it is not necessary, no one wants to make an effort for the pleasure of it. These are the millionaire brigades in the sugar harvest.

The law of the jungle does not produce these men or these virtues. And that is a true, objective, historical fact that the revolution has produced this. The law of the jungle does not produce patriots, who are ready to die for their country. It does not mobilize millions of men and women who are bravely ready and determined to die a thousand times before renouncing a principle, a moral idea, or their dignity; before renouncing the marvelous things of the revolution. The law of the jungle does not produce internationalists or patriots. It has been objectively and irrefutably demonstrated that the revolution, that socialism produces patriots. And it produces internationalists. These are not theories, they are facts. They are not things that will be seen in the future. They are being seen now. We have obtained all this. We have achieved it.

What can we not achieve? What can the revolution not achieve? Our party and our people have won many battles. Did we or did we not win the battle against these irresponsibilities? Against these things? Against these defects when we discover them?

The revolution can make mistakes but cannot be aware of mistakes, of incorrect things, deficiencies, and not overcome them. We have to be aware of what it means that no one, neither the party, nor the union, nor mass organizations know how much the work unit spends.

It should be the pride of workers. This is how we are using it, how we are doing it. It was not shown there. How it was, how it will be, or the plans were not known. Everyone should participate in that battle, in that task. What we are not capable of asking for, we cannot receive from our workers and people. Because if there is inability, it is not in the people. It is in ourselves who have not understood or seen. We have not been sufficiently capable, have not been able to foresee and be intelligent. We have not been able to lead properly our workers who rely on us, on the party, on the party leadership, and on the government's leadership.

I was talking about Alladin's lamp, of cadres, all asking with enthusiasm, but there is another Alladin's lamp and that one belongs to the revolution, which has accomplished every goal. The revolution has always received what it has asked from the workers and people. Let us talk with all workers.

I know the assessments were critical and self-critical in all this process. In other words, we have already begun to gain consciousness. Let us continue the struggle. Let us get going. Let us begin to wage this other battle.

I am absolutely convinced that we will win it.

Thank you comrades. [applause]

SWISS DEBT RESCHEDULED, TRADE TO BE EXTENDED

FL222316 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] The protocol to extend the trade agreement between Cuba and Switzerland and an accord between the two governments for rescheduling Cuba's debt with Switzerland have been signed at the Foreign Ministry.

Foreign Ministry Isidoro Malmierca and Swiss Ambassador to Cuba (Peter Hellenber) signed the protocol to extend the trade agreement, and Vice Foreign Minister Jorge Bolanos and the Swiss ambassador signed the one rescheduling Cuba's debt.

HAVANA COMMENTS ON PLANNED DISCOVERY LAUNCHING

FL222030 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1322 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] With the launching of the space shuttle Discovery tomorrow, Friday, [as heard] at an unspecified time, the United States will cut the ribbon inaugurating its space militarization program called Star Wars. The program includes the worldwide launching of spy satellites, laser weapons, and other antimissile war devices that, in the opinion of analysts, block the path of the arms control talks being held by the USSR and the United States, which began in Geneva in early January.

BARBADOS

ADAMS REJECTS USING DEFENSE FORCE AS POLICE

FL221252 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams is rejecting the use of the Barbados Defense Force to combat the island's 5 percent increase in crime. At the ruling Barbados Labor Party's annual conference this past Sunday, Mr Adams rejected calls from the opposition Democratic Labor Party to add crimestopping to the Defense Force's duties. He noted that annual spending for the Barbados Police Force had risen from $1.3 million in 1976 to $4.4 million last year.

JAMAICA

MINISTER CALLS FOR HARVEST OF SUGAR CROP

FL211854 Bridgetown CANA in English 2056 GMT 20 Jan 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 20, CANA -- Faced with a strike by cutters at the island's largest sugar complex and several other problems in the industry, Jamaica's agriculture minister, Percival Broderick, has appealed for good sense and a smooth harvest to ensure the future of sugar here. Failure to do so will only serve to undermine the efforts being made to rehabilitate and revitalise the industry with local and overseas lending institutions, Broderick said in a statement. And, we could eventually lose our market opportunities upon which the industry is totally dependent.

Cane cutters at Frome, in western Jamaica, have refused to start cutting that estates crop because of a longstanding dispute regarding severance pay following the government's 1981 dissolution of several sugar workers cooperatives. The strike has caused a severe reduction in the factory's throughput and could pose serious problems for the industry as a whole, Broderick said. Jamaica's sugar production has been in decline for several years, and in a major effort at revival, the private sector-oriented Edward Seaga government has handed the three largest estate-factories here to the British Tate and Lyle Company for management.

Two other state-owned factories have also been given to local private companies to manage, and sugar lands turned into workers cooperatives in the 1970's were taken back in 1981. These lands are now part of the estates being managed by Tate and Lyle which formerly had major control over the Jamaica sugar industry for more than three decades until the company pulled out in the 1970's.

Apart from the return of their initial subscription monies, former cooperative employees say they were entitled to receive from the government notice and severance pay. The issue has dogged the last three crops, but a board of inquiry recently ruled that it was not the government's responsibility to make such payment and said the claims should go before liquidators. It suggested that the liquidation process be speeded up. Broderick said in such circumstances, it was unfortunate the Frome workers had decided on industrial action as this can jeopardize not only the future of the Frome factory but the industry as a whole.

Jamaica is this year hoping to produce 220,000 tonnes of sugar. The last three crops, including last year's estimate of 190,000 tonnes, have been declines to 30-year lows.

The strike at Frome apart, Broderick said the current crop had suffered from a loss of over 12,800 tonnes of cane at five government estates as a result of fires during last week's islandwide demonstrations triggered by a rise in petroleum prices. This latest loss represents over a thousand tonnes of sugar valued at 1.5 million (J) dollars and must be seen as the latest in a series of incidents which have plagued the industry, he said.

Other problems include last month's threats by some private cane farmers that they would not reap their crop unless their demands for an additional eight million dollars in payments from the last harvest were met. The root of that quarrel was the farmers arguments that they should get a major increase on the price paid for sugar by the government's Sugar Industry Authority (SIA), the agency that markets the commodity, because of the substantial devaluation of the Jamaican dollar.

The SIA in November announced an increase in the price of sugar for the last crop, which meant a pay-out of an additional eight million dollars to farmers. But, industry sources said that the authority had initially recommended double that amount, but it was not approved by the government on the grounds that the SIA did not have the money. The government last year ended subsidies to the sugar industry under its International Monetary Fund (IMF) stabilisation programme. Cane farmers at a December meeting shouted down leaders who urged a smooth start to the harvest while negotiations over the payment issue continued.

It is however too early in the season to determine if there is a significant change in attitude for the crop is not yet in full swing and most factories have not begun operations. However, officials noted that between January 2 and January 16, only 4,929 tonnes of sugar had been produced at a ratio of 10.10 tonnes of cane per tonne of sugar. At the same time last year those first 14 days of production yielded 16,982 tonnes of sugar at a ratio of 12.39 tonnes of cane for a tonne of sugar. This indicates that despite the good cane-sugar ratio, the current crop is lagging, Broderick complained.

It is imperative, therefore, that the factories should now be allowed to start as scheduled and to operate without disruptions so as to maximise production during the economic cropping cycle, thus capitalizing on the apparent good juice this year. This will also minimize the quantity of cane that could remain unreaped when the factories close at the end of the economic cropping period, he said.

Broderick stressed that Jamaica had up until mid-June to meet its 120,000 tonne European Community sugar quota, failing which it could lose a portion of the quota and important foreign exchange. In recent years, Jamaica has not produced enough sugar to meet export quotas and domestic demands, but with foreign exchange in demand, meeting export targets is a priority.

KINGSTON BUS FARES TO INCREASE 22 PERCENT

FL222228 Bridgetown CANA in English 2210 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 22, CANA -- Bus fares in Kingston tomorrow go up nearly 22 percent or an average 20 cents per fare stage in the first direct economic spin-off from last week's hike in petrol prices that led to two days of demonstrations across Jamaica.

According to the transport minister, Pearnel Charles, the cheapest bus ride in the Jamaican capital will now be 80 cents, against the previous 60 cents. And, over three fare stages, which most bus routes run, the ride will now cost J1.20 dollars against the previous one dollar. However, for school children there has been a 60 per cent increase with their previous 25 cents flat rate now moving to 40 cents.

Charles said that bus operators had asked for a 60 per cent rise, citing the 21 percent increase in gasolene prices, and various hikes over the past several months for servicing, spares, interest charges, labour, and administration.

BURNHAM GREETS BRAZIL'S NEVES ON ELECTION

FL181714 Bridgetown CANA in English 1656 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 17, CANA -- Guyana today told Brazil it was prepared to cooperate in any move to beef up economic development or reduce tension in Latin America. Guyana's stand was mentioned in a message which President Forbes Burnham sent Brazilian President-elect Tancredo Neves. Burnham assured the 74-year-old politician of Guyana's readiness to continue to cooperate fully with Brazil in the pursuit of peace and development, not only for our respective peoples, but also for those of the region to which we belong and of the wider international community.

COOPERATION TALKS WITH CUBA BEGIN 17 JANUARY

FL181706 Bridgetown CANA in English 1659 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 17, CANA -- Government officials from Cuba and Guyana today began talks here on wide-ranging cooperation.

Leader of the Guyana team, Health Minister Richard van West Charles, described the agenda as exhaustive...reflecting issues ranging from scientific and technical cooperation, educational and cultural cooperation, trade, economic cooperation, and industrial and agricultural cooperation. The Cuban side is headed by Agriculture Minister Adolfo Diaz. The two sides, called the Guyana-Cuba joint commission, will review projects between the two socialist countries.

Van West Charles said 80 per cent of the projects the two countries had agreed on last year had been completed and he hoped for an early completion of the others. We do hope that this commission will always strive for betterment despite the fact that we have done well over the past years, the health minister said when the meeting opened.

But ten years of collaboration between two nations is a significant hallmark, which marked growth every year in the relationship between the two countries.

SOVIET-BUILT PLANES TO REPLACE BOEING 707'S

FL191736 Bridgetown CANA in English 1711 GMT 19 Jan 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 19, CANA -- the state-run Guyana Airways Corporation (GAC) has announced it is buying a Russian-built passenger plane this year to use on its Caribbean and North American routes.

The Tupolev TU-154M will be delivered by September, GAC General Manager Bob Dornford said. The announcement came as he reported on the performance of a similar aircraft the GAC leased a month ago from Tamron Airlines in Romania. The TU-154B aircraft has moved about 4,000 passengers in 55 flights in the Caribbean and to North America with no significant difficulties, the GAC chief executive said of the jet's first 19 days of operation. Introduction of the Tupolev had given the GAC the opportunity to adjust to its technical operations and gain experience in the maintenance of this type of aircraft in anticipation of the new purchase, Dornford told newsmen.

The GAC's move from the American Boeing 707 to the Russian plane was influenced by new noise abatement regulations in the United States which would have required the 707 aircraft to be fitted with special devices with effect from January 1, this year, Dornford said. The devices, accoustically treated cowlings, can cost a few times as much as the aircraft, he quipped.